

Mount Drum, Copper Valley Alaska
Photo by Tami Jindra

Copper Valley Regional Plan

CEDS

**Comprehensive Economic Development
Strategy**

2003

The preparation of this strategy was financed in part by funds administered by the State Department of Community and Economic Development, Division of Community Advocacy and provided by the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

Other contributors to this strategy are Wells Fargo Bank, RurAL Cap, and USDA – NRCS RC&D.

Introduction



Small Workgroup at CEDS Conference

I INTRODUCTION TO CEDS

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is the result of a community-based planning process designed to guide the economic growth of an area. It helps to coordinate the efforts of individuals, organizations and private industry concerned with economic and community development. It is a continuing process with diverse community participation. It should promote sustainable economic development and job opportunities, foster effective transportation systems, enhance and protect the environment and balance resource use through sound management of development. This CEDS document will be readily accessible to the economic development stakeholders in the community and should be useful as a tool for local decision making.

The Copper Valley Development Association, Inc., Inc. has undertaken the preparation of this CEDS, with assistance from State and Federal agencies, RurAL Cap, a non-profit organization, and input from the residents of the Copper Valley. The Council is both the designated Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) and the USDA Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D). The CEDS will be the ARDOR Regional Development Strategy and will be used in the preparation of the RC&D Area Plan which will in turn guide future annual work plans of the Council and its staff.

The CEDS will make CVDA and other organizations in the region eligible for funds under the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) such as EDA public works, economic adjustment and planning programs. Funding and support for the preparation of the CEDS has come from the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development, with additional financial assistance from Wells Fargo Bank. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has also given support to the effort.

Copper Valley Economic Co
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Copper Valley Economic Development Council

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Copper Valley Residents at CEDS Conference

II COPPER VALLEY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.,

Contact Information

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CVDA VISION

To bring together the people of the Copper Valley communities to work together in harmony toward common goals and for the betterment of all who live in the region.

CVDA MISSION

To perform as a public and private partnership to address natural resources and economic development opportunities throughout the Copper Valley. This is accomplished through information gathering and disseminating, acting as liaison between organizations, and creating self-sufficiency throughout the region through development and wise use of sustainable resources.

History and Organization of Copper Valley Development Association, Inc.

Copper Valley Development Association, Inc. was designated as a non-profit organization under the Alaska Corporation Laws in 1990, and was designated as an Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) the same year. In 2002, CVDA became a Resource Conservation and Development Council through approval by the Copper Valley RC&D program area by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Copper Valley Development Association, Inc. is governed by a board of nine directors that are elected by the general membership in a democratic process at the annual meeting. The board seeks representation from local private and public organizations including; Native organizations, Ahtna, Inc., oil and gas industry, education, health, forestry, transportation, mining, communications, tourism, utilities, professions, natural resource and conservation, small businesses and communities. There is also representation from federal land managers. There are no designated seats.

Copper Valley Development Association, Inc. is funded primarily through the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) program, with federal support to the RC&D. Funds are also leveraged through various donations and fundraising projects.

Board of Directors:

Paul Boos, President, Kenny Lake Community League, Wrangell Institute for Science & Environment

Joe Hart, Vice President, Chitina Native Corporation

Michelle Lemaire, Secretary, Glennallen Waterworks

Peggy Brockman, Treasurer, Wells Fargo Bank

Julie Bator, Director, Tazlina Village Council, Copper River Native Association

Bruce Rogers, Director, Bureau of Land Management

Theresa Absher, Director, Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce, ESD – Glennallen Job Center

Chris Deck, Director, Crossroads Medical Clinic

Vicki Snitzler, Director, National Park Service

Staff:

Executive Director: John Downes

Administrative Assistant: Tami Jindra

RC&D Coordinator: Arlene Rosenkrans

AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer: Shannon Healey

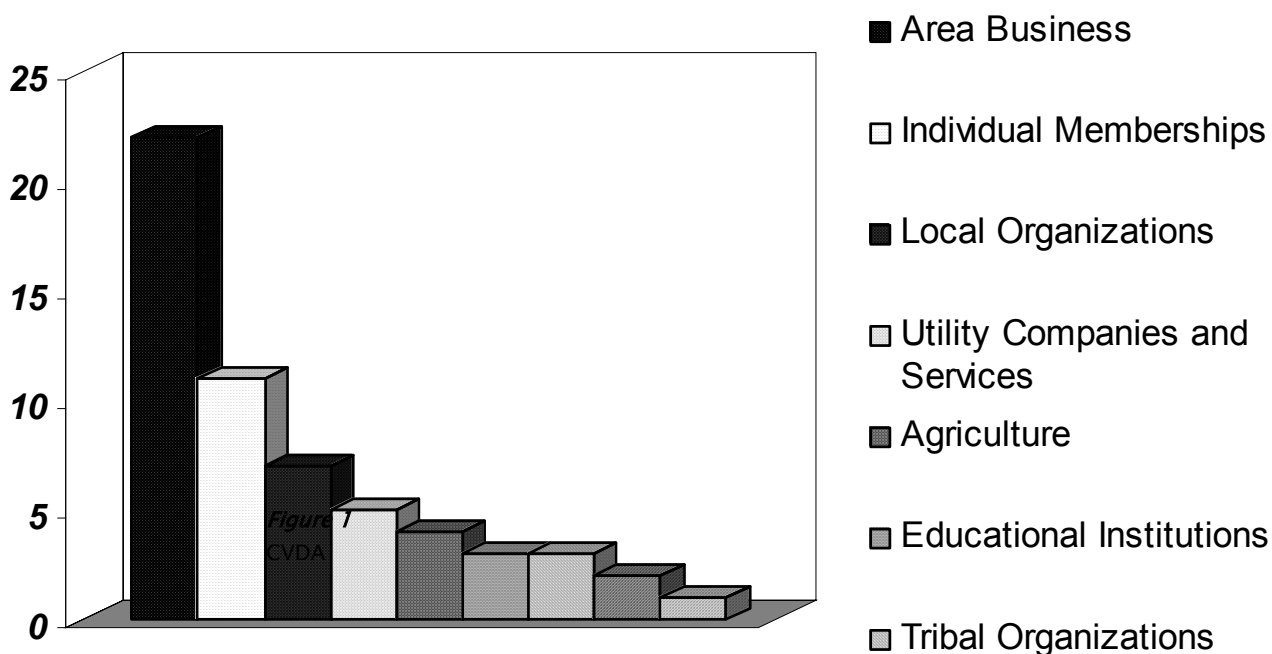


***CVDA Building a stronger Copper Valley
through it's membership***

Membership of CVDA 2002–2003:

Copper Valley Development Association, Inc. members are a diverse cross section of the businesses, agencies, individuals and non-profit organizations and in the region. Membership includes representation from the Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, Copper River Native Association, Prince William Sound Community College, Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, Kenny Lake Community League, Nelchina–Mendeltna Community Corporation, along with other local and tribal organizations. Large landowners, Ahtna, Inc., Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve and the Bureau of Land Management are also represented. Membership is free to any organization, agency or individual supporting the mission of Copper Valley Development Association, Inc..

The graph below shows the proportion of representation of this membership.



Copper Valley Regional Development Committee

Copper Valley Regional Development Committee



Section III

CEDS Committee

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III CEDS COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee for the Copper Valley CEDS has 14 members that represent business, finance, agriculture, utilities, education, community organizations, federal agencies, Native corporations and organizations, health care, the unemployed, disabled and seniors. They met for three sessions of planning prior to the Sub Regional Workshops to plan the course of action the CEDS was to take.

CEDS Committee Membership:

Name	Native Organizations	Economic and Business Development Organizations	Employment and Training Sector	Women, Minorities, Aged and Disabled	Health Care Services, Education and other
John Downes		X			
Arlene Rosenkrans		X		X	
Tami Jindra		X		X	
Shannon Healey		X		X	
Theresa Absher		X	X	X	
Paul Boos		X			X
Vickie Snitzler		X		X	X
Bruce Rogers		X			X
Julie Bator	X	X		X	X
Michelle Bayless	X	X		X	X
Chris Deck		X			
Elaine Manning	X			X	
Peggy Brockman		X			
Joe Hart	X				

Figure 2
CEDS Steering Committee



*CEDS Steering Committee Members:
Shannon Healey, MaryAnne LeMaitre of*

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Section IV

History

Physical Geography

- Geology & Topography
- Permafrost
- Hydrology and Water
- Native Vegetation
- Wildlife
- Fisheries
- Land and Land Ownership

Population and Labor Force

- Population Demographics
- Income
- Educational Attainment

Infrastructure

- Transportation
- Weather Service
- Electricity and Power
- Communications
- Water
- Sewage
- Refuse and Recycling

Social Structures and Services

- Government
- Medical and Health Services
- Fire Protection and Emergency

Area Description	
<i>Where we are</i>	

IV AREA DESCRIPTION

Introduction:



The Copper Valley encompasses approximately 20,649 square miles and is bounded by the Alaska and Talkeetna Mountain Ranges to the north, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and Canada to the east, Thompson Pass in the Chugach Range to the south and the Matanuska–Susitna borough to the west. This vast region includes the Wrangell and St. Elias Mountain Range, which has nine of the 16

highest mountain peaks in North America. The Copper River, one of the major rivers on the continent, has its headwaters at the base of the Wrangell Mountains and dissects the region, flowing 250 miles to the Gulf of Alaska near Cordova.

In the 2000 census, the region had a population of 3,120 up from 2,569 in 1990. The major population centers are focused in the Glennallen, Copper Center and Kenny Lake communities which are situated near the junctions of major highways or with access to recreational resources. They are also the major shopping and service centers for the area. Each of these communities has approximately 500 persons in their loosely defined boundaries.

Glennallen is the major commerce and administrative center, with major medical services, the Alaska public health service clinic, a library, the region's largest two schools, and the campuses of Alaska Bible College, and Prince William Sound Community College. The Copper River School District and Ahtna, Inc., have offices in Glennallen. There are also offices for the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development – Glennallen Job Center, Alaska State Troopers, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Glennallen.

Just south of Glennallen in the community of Tazlina are the headquarters for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and the main maintenance facility for the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Copper River Native Association and the National Park Service have their main offices in Copper Center.

Kenny Lake is the agricultural center. Hay, vegetables and bedding plants are the major commercial products. Roughly 19 hay operations, ranging in size from 60 to 200 acres, produce high quality hay that is sold inside and outside the region. Some cattle and hogs are raised as well. A school, sawmill and lumber business, fur farm, feed and seed supplier, and construction companies are located in Kenny Lake. Much of the produce goes to Valdez and the Glennallen area. A limited amount goes to the Mat-Su Valley and elsewhere.

Other smaller communities in the regional planning area are Tolsona, Nelchina/Mendeltna, Gulkana, Gakona, Sourdough/ Paxson, Chistochina, Slana/Nabesna/Chisana, Mentasta, Copperville, Tazlina, Chitina, and McCarthy/Kennecott. Many are small and offer a remote lifestyle, with subsistence supplementing their livelihoods.



History of the Copper Valley

In the 1800's, the Ahtna Athabaskan Natives occupied most of the upper Copper Valley; "Ahtna" is the Athabaskan name for the Copper River. Most settlements were either fish camps or winter "villages" along the river, or hunting and trapping camps in the uplands. The Native residents were divided into clans and the various groups had their own hunting, fishing and berry picking areas. Until the early 1970's after the adoption of the Ahtna Tannah Ninnan Association (now the Copper River Native Association) following statehood, each local Native group had remained autonomous.



Though historical records show Russian contact in this area as early as the 18th century, it was not until the late 1800's that the Ahtna People had their first true involvement with outside explorers. Several years after the United States purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867, Lt. Henry Allen traveled the Copper River as far north as the Tanana River. With his exploration came the word of the large concentrations of copper found in this volcanic valley.

In 1898, thirteen years after Allen's exploration, the United States Geological Survey published reports on the geology of the region. In 1900 the great copper deposit was staked on a ridge just north of what is now McCarthy, overlooking the Kennicott Glacier in what is today known as the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The Kennecott Copper Company developed the mine and built the railroad between Cordova and Kennecott/McCarthy, which was active from 1910 until it shut down in 1938.

Captain Edwin Glenn then assigned Lt. Joseph Caster to head a scouting party that would eventually blaze trail from the Cook Inlet to where Circle City is now located. His charted course became the route for the Glenn Highway (#1), which was completed in 1945. In 1899, surveying began for what is now known as the Richardson Highway (#4).

Discovery of gold in 1898 and 1899 in the Klondike resulted in the creation of the Valdez–Eagle trail as an alternate route for gold miners. The Copper Basin was a staging area for thousands of prospectors who were traveling to the interior regions of Alaska from the coast at Valdez; hundreds wintered at Copper Center. It later became an important stage coach and mail route for those people who, under the Homestead Act, had settled through the Copper Valley region.

Roadhouses sprang up along the trail and even today one can visit many of the historic sites that offered rest and food to travelers and gold seekers nearly a century ago.

Once transportation routes were in place, communication came to this once isolated land. Telegraph lines were constructed from Valdez to Copper Center, Eagle, Fairbanks, and other interior posts. In 1941, the Alaska Road Commission received appropriations for the Glenn Highway, which was completed four years later.

Perhaps the greatest social and economic impact to this region occurred with the construction of the Trans–Alaska Pipeline in 1971. Many small settlements were built through the Copper Valley to accommodate the pipeline workers and their families, many of whom remained after construction was completed.

As progress continued to come to the valley, the villages, under the Native Claims Settlement Act, finally came together to form Ahtna, Inc., a Native regional corporation. For the first time in Ahtna history, the individual groups formed a tribal council of all the Ahtna Chiefs.

Physical Geography of Copper Valley

Climate

The Copper Valley has a sub arctic continental climate, with long cold winters and relatively warm summers. Winter temperatures range from 40 to –65 degrees F, and in the summer between 60 and 90 degrees F. The area has one of the drier climates in the state, with mean annual precipitation ranging from 8–17 inches across the basin. The annual snowfall is 47–49 inches, and snow is on the ground an average of 180 days per year. There is almost 24 hours of daylight from

May until July. On the shortest day of the year, December 22, there are just less than 5 hours of direct sun, with dusk and dawn adding up to an hour of additional light.

Geology and Topography

The Alaska Range and Talkeetna, Chugach, and Wrangell Mountains rim the Copper Valley. Rocks bordering the basin consist of sedimentary and volcanic terraces with over 12 volcanoes recognized in the Wrangell Mountains. Mt. Wrangell is considered to be an active volcano and still has steam venting from near its summit. The Denali Fault and several other minor faults dissect the region. November 3, 2002, a 7.9 magnitude earthquake shook the region, severely damaging some 28 miles of highway, on local airstrips and houses.

During one or more early Pleistocene glaciations (35,000 to 9,000 years ago), glaciers from the surrounding mountains covered the entire basin floor. However, the last glacial advance left large areas of the basin ice-free. During periods of each major glaciations, ice dammed the channel of the Copper River through the Chugach Mountains forming a large proglacial lake in the central basin. Lacustrine or lake-derived sediments partially buried older glacial features. Over time, the lake level fluctuated widely, and eventually drained completely about 9,000 years ago. There are broad, nearly level terraces that extend for several miles on either side of the Copper River and its tributaries consisting of these clayey lacustrine sediments.

Following retreat of the glaciers and drainage of the lake, permafrost began to form in these fine textured lacustrine and glacial deposits. Rivers began to incise canyons in these sediments, and loess began to accumulate in proximity to major drainages. Away from the river canyons and above the terraces the landscape is dominated by low relief morainal hills and extensive till plains formed from glacially deposited materials.

Data obtained by USDA and NPS Geologists

Permafrost

Permafrost underlies the entire valley at varying depths except on flood plains and under lakes. The depth at which it occurs and its ice content varies widely. Permafrost characteristically occurs as ice crystals disseminated throughout the soil. Although not extensive near the soil surface, massive ice wedges and lenses do occur in the subsoil in some areas. A perched water table and saturated conditions are common above the permafrost during the summer due to restricted drainage.

The fire history of the site and the thickness of the insulating organic layer on the soil surface control depth to permafrost and water table, in part. Disturbance of the organic layer usually results in increased soil temperatures and a lowering of the permafrost level. As permafrost thaws, a large volume of water is released. Variation in the ice content of the permafrost and the rate of thawing results in differential subsidence of the soil surface and slumping on steeper slopes. The occurrence of permafrost requires special consideration when selecting lands for clearing and agriculture and during construction of roads and buildings.

Data obtained by USDA "Soil Survey of Copper River Area, Alaska."

**2002 Census statistics*

Hydrology and Water

The major tributaries of the Copper River within the area are the Gakona, Gulkana, Tazlina, Klutina, Tonsina, and Chitina Rivers. Except for the Gulkana, all major rivers are glacial in origin. These rivers are characterized by steep gradients, braided floodplains, and high volumes of suspended sediments. Several mineralized springs, locally referred to as mud volcanoes, occur within 15 miles of Glennallen. Mud volcanoes are cone-shaped mounds of silt and clay from which mud, gas and mineralized water have been discharged.



There has been little documentation of the surface and groundwater sources in the area and their quantity and quality for drinking water and other uses; well log data are limited.

Subsurface water throughout much of the area is under artesian pressure beneath fine-grained material and/or permafrost. Water availability and quality varies dramatically throughout the region. Some of the Kenny Lake area has water at extremely deep levels; Glennallen water is highly mineralized sometimes iron-rich. Wells drilled in Glennallen, Gulkana, and Gakona have produced water that is somewhat saline.

There are multiple lakes with potable water in the region, but their accessibility, ownership and use concerns, organizational capacities to develop their use, and capital/operation/maintenance cost concerns need to be considered for long term viability.

Excerpts taken from USDA publication "Soil Survey of Copper River Area, Alaska" and United States Geophysical Service

Forest Ecosystems and Native Vegetation



The Copper Valley is an extensively forested area. Forest types on productive well-drained sites include aspen, white spruce, mixed white spruce-aspen, and mixed white spruce-balsam poplar. In the southern end of the region, mixed stands of white spruce-paper birch can be found. Stunted black spruce and white spruce forests of low productivity occur on north facing slopes and other cold, wet sites with shallow permafrost. Seasonally flooded river wash on the floodplains of major rivers supports dense alder shrub. Willow and heath shrub occupy bogs, fens, and narrow drainages. Wet sedge

meadows are common on the margins of lakes and ponds. Steppe vegetation, characteristic of semi-arid areas elsewhere in northeastern Asia and northwestern North America is found on steep south-facing terrace escarpments.

The Copper Valley has a long history of frequent wild fires. Between 1900 and 1950, an average of 10,000 acres burned annually, although this average has been reduced with improved fire protection measures. Extensive fires in the 1940's burned through much of the region. High intensity crown fires that typically kill entire stands characterize the natural fire regime. Following forest fires, willow shrub dominates most sites until eventually replaced by forest vegetation. Stands are then replaced through natural regeneration.



Common berries found in the Copper Valley are low bush cranberry, trailing raspberry, rosehips, low bush blueberry, crowberries and currants.

Wildlife

The diversity of the landforms, vegetation types and abundance of streams and wetlands of the Copper River Area provide habitat for a wide variety of Alaska's game and non-game mammals and birds. It is home to moose, caribou, fox, coyote, wolf, wolverine, lynx, hare, porcupine, bison and black and brown bears. There are over 140 species of birds including eagles and trumpeter swans.



Moose, the most important big game animal in the survey area, are found throughout the Copper Valley. They are common at higher elevations outside the area in the summer and fall and concentrate along the rivers at lower elevations in winter. The winter range and calving grounds of the Nelchina caribou herd are at higher elevations north and east of the area. Occasional caribou wander into the

lower elevation forests. The Chitina bison herd inhabits the area between the Cheshnina and Nadina rivers on the east side of the Copper River. Many of the terraces and escarpments in this area are heavily grazed in summer and fall. Dall sheep and mountain goats are found in the Wrangell and Chugach Mountains adjacent to the area. They are an important sport game in the Wrangell St. Elias National Preserve.

Both black bears and grizzly bears are in the area. Black bears intensively utilize the floodplains and stream terraces along the Copper, Klutina, and other major rivers. Grizzly bears occur throughout the uplands, and concentrate along the Tonsina and other rivers and streams when spawning salmon are present. Among the more important furbearers in the area are coyote, red fox, martin, mink, lynx, muskrat, and beaver. Porcupines are common and snowshoe hare populations are cyclical.

Population levels are determined by the stage of vegetative succession, interspersed of vegetation types and other habitat features, seasonal animal migrations, hunting and trapping pressure, and other factors. Human uses of area wildlife include subsistence harvesting, trapping, and sport hunting.



Approximately 135 species of birds are summer residents of Interior Alaska; another 3 dozen or so are spring-fall migrants or occasional visitors to the region. (*Armstrong 1980*) Many of these birds can be found in suitable habitats in the Copper Valley. A variety of waterfowl, including Trumpeter Swans, nest in the area and utilize local lakes and ponds for rearing young. Bald Eagles nest and fish along the major rivers. Spruce Grouse are common in spruce forests throughout the area.

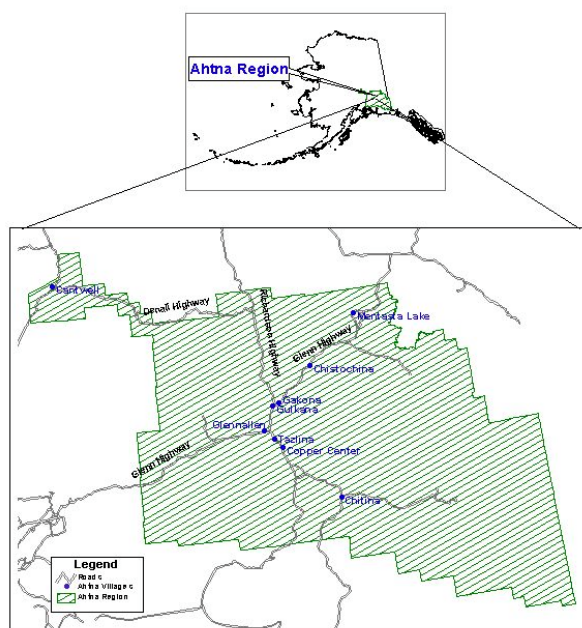
Fish Resources

The Copper River and tributaries are spawning and rearing habitat for six species of anadromous fish. Salmon was probably one of the most important food resources of the Ahtna people, and it remains an important part of the diet of Copper Basin residents. Because of their long upstream journey, the Copper River salmon store up large fat reserves to sustain them, making them greatly valued for their high oil content.



Based on escapement and harvest data, an average of 1 to 3 million salmon return to the Copper River annually. In 1999, some 1.68 million sockeye (reds), 62,000 Chinook, (king), and 150,000 coho (silver) were caught commercially near the mouth, and over 850,00 salmon headed upstream to spawn. Alaskans harvested 224,200 sockeye, 8,800 Chinook and 3,200 Coho in dip nets and fish wheels in the Copper River. About 11,000 residents participate in the fishery near Chitina.

The river and lake systems in the area support numerous species of fish including rainbow trout, dolly varden, whitefish, turbot, grayling, steelhead and northern pike.



Land and Land Ownership:

Over the last two decades, Alaska has experienced tremendous changes in land ownership and management. Many areas previously available for public use, may today be restricted or eliminated due to inclusion in a federal conservation unit, State legislatively designated unit, and often areas may no longer be available for public use because of conveyance to a Native corporation or other private parties. For example, 1,528,000 acres have been conveyed to Ahtna through ANSCA as of 1998. Very little of the land within the borders of the Copper River Area is owned by private individuals. Conservative estimates put the land which is privately owned at 1% or less. The largest

Figure 3 illustrates Ahtna territory. Ahtna currently has over 1200 shareholders, most of which reside in the Copper Valley Region

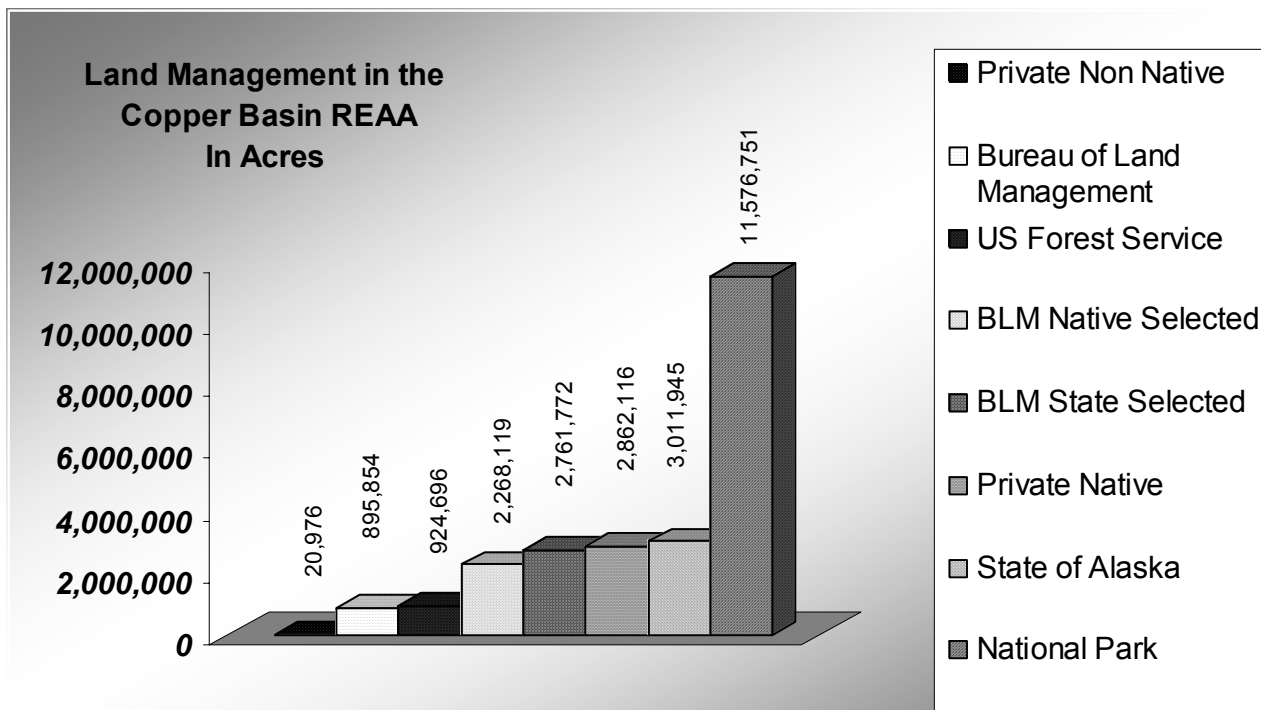


Figure 4
Land Ownership

POPULATION AND LABOR FORCE

Population Demographics and Changes

The area has a **population of 3120** according to the 2000 census, living in the 22 communities.

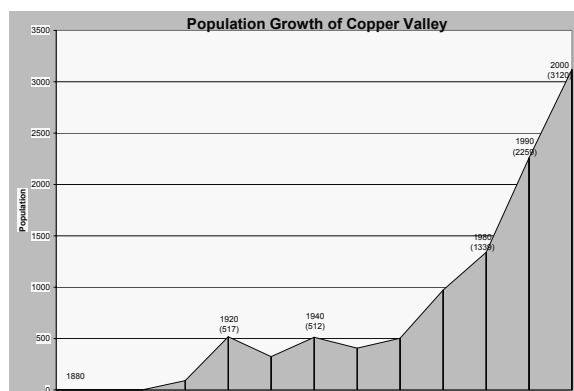
	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chisana	0	0	0	0	148	13	29	0	0	0	0	0	12
Chistochina	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	31	28	33	55	60	93
Chitina	0	0	0	0	171	116	176	92	31	38	42	49	123
Copper Center	0	0	0	91	71	80	138	90	151	206	213	449	362
Copporville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	163	179
Gakona	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	50	33	88	87	25	215
Glennallen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	142	169	363	511	451	554
Gulkana	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	51	53	104	103	88

Kenny Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	423	410
McCarthy	0	0	0	0	127	115	49	0	0	0	23	25	42
Mendeltna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	37	63
Mentasta Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	40	68	59	96	142
Nelchina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71
Paxson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	43
Silver Springs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130
Slana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	63	124
Tazlina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	122	0	247	149
Tolsona	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
Tonsina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	135	38	92
Willow Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	201
Total Population	0	0	0	91	517	324	512	405	503	971	133	225	312
	0	0	0	91	517	324	512	405	503	971	9	9	0

Population Per Community, Historical Data

U.S. Census-Copper Valley Only

Figure 5 above identifies the communities in the area, with population figures with census data from 1880 to 2000. Some of these data may have been erroneous due to incomplete census collection.



The growth of the Copper River Area began in earnest in 1920 with a total population of 512. As the area gained popularity for its natural resources and tourism it has grown exponentially over the years. With a population jump from 2259 in the 1990 census to a population of 3120 in the 2000 census, the 72% growth makes this one of the highest growth areas in the state. The chart below graphs the population changes for the entire area from 1880 to 2000.

Figure 6

Population Growth of
the

According to the 2000 census, of the 3120 people of the Copper Valley, 1660 are male and 1448 are female*. The average age is 37 years and the median age is 33.7. According to the census, 20% of the population is Native American, mostly Athabaskan Indians, and 80% of the population is non-Native.

*Some communities have reported 0% sampling in the 2000 census.

Employment and Labor Force:

Year-round employment can be found with service industries, federal and state agencies, the local school district, Ahtna Inc., Alyeska Pipeline, Copper River Native Association and other tribal governments. The majority of the seasonal employment is geared towards tourism and construction. Federal and state agencies also hire many seasonal employees for fire protection, maintenance and visitor services. Residents also work outside the region, in Valdez and the North Slope. The Copper Valley area has no industrial enterprises and limited commercial agriculture in the Kenny Lake area. Many residents augment income with subsistence activities and permanent fund dividends.

The figure below shows the most recent information available the area employment by sector.

agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining	22
construction	118
manufacturing	15
wholesale trade	38
retail trade	106
transportation, warehousing and utilities	85
information	9
finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing	41
professional scientific, management, administrative and waste management	50
Education, health and social services	264
arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	87
other services	99
public administration	113

Figure 7 Area Employment by Sector

Information from 2000 Census–Copper Valley Only

Employment figures specifically for the Copper Valley are not provided by the Alaska Department of Labor but are grouped with the Valdez/Cordova Census area. It is estimated that unemployment estimate ranges from 9% to as much as 50% in some communities. Underemployment is chronic in

the region. Because of the seasonal nature of employment in the region, unemployment rates vary greatly between summer and winter as shown in figure 8.

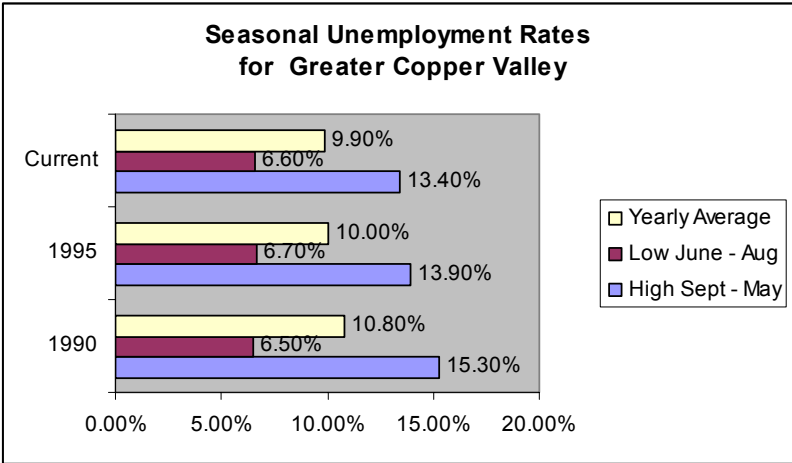


Figure 8
Seasonal Employment Rates for Copper

Showing the difference between seasonal unemployment rates
Alaska Department of Labor Valdez–Cordova Census Area

In 2002, 18% of the Alaskan workforce were non-residents. This was 30.5% for the Valdez /Cordova census area.

Income

Community and regional wages per capita from the 2000 Census are shown on the chart below. This is compared with Alaska and national averages. The State per capita income average for 2000 was \$22, 660, which is close to the national average of \$21,567.

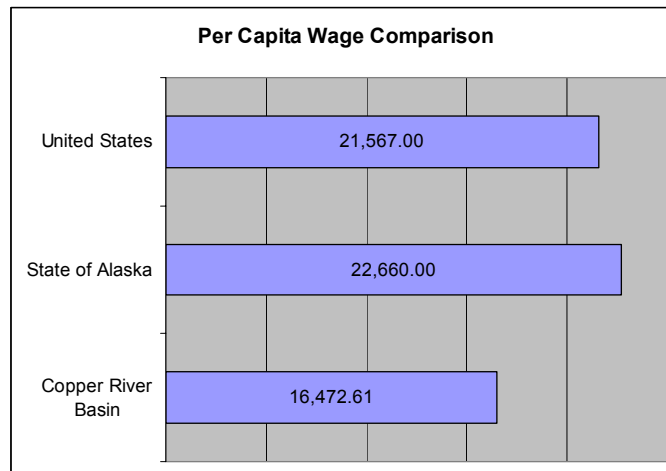
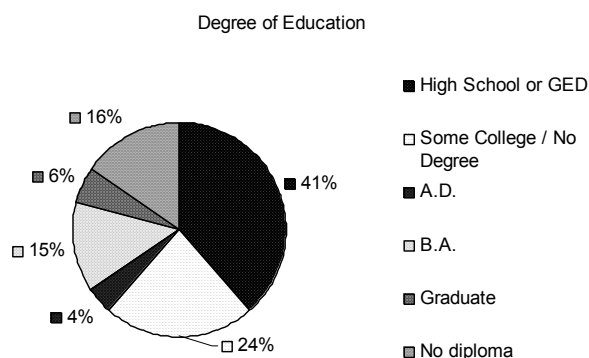


Figure 9
Comparative Per Capita Wages

The Alaska Division of Public Assistance and Department of Education and Early Development showed that in the 1999–2000 school year, 23% of area school children in local district schools were living with parents receiving public assistance, including temporary assistance, Medicaid or food stamps.

Subsistence plays an important role in supplementing this income. “Buying replacement food could cost rural households thousands of dollars, assuming meat and fish would cost \$3 to \$5 per pound”. According the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division, in 2000, in rural Southcentral Alaska, 153–178 pounds of subsistence meat is harvested annually that has an estimated value of \$612 to \$712.



Educational Attainment

Of the 85% of our residents who have graduated with a diploma from high school, 23% have some college experience with no degree, 4% have an associates degree, 14% have a bachelor’s degree, and 6% have graduate level degrees. *2000 Census Copper Valley Only*

Figure 10
Degree of

INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation



Three major highways bisect the Copper Valley are linked by the road system, with the exception of Chisana in on the north side of the Wrangell Mountains, although road access to McCarthy becomes limited in the winter months. The Glenn Highway is the main corridor running roughly east from Anchorage to Glennallen. The Richardson runs from Valdez generally northward to Fairbanks, with intersections to the Glenn Hwy, and the Tok

cutoff. The Tok Cutoff from Gakona Junction to Tok and is the main access route to Canada and the lower 48 states.

There are few secondary roads. The Old Edgerton connecting Kenny Lake and Willow Creek is a maintained gravel road. The Edgerton Highway runs through Kenny Lake into Chitina and is a paved two-lane road. In Chitina, it becomes the McCarthy Road, which is unpaved for 59 miles, where it ends at the footbridge across the Kennicott River. The Nabesna Road runs from Slana on the Tok Cutoff to the headwaters of the Nabesna River. It is paved to Mile 4, where it becomes gravel for the remaining 40 miles.

The Denali Highway, with summer access to cars, leads from Cantwell to Paxson and was once the original route to the Denali National Park. The first 22 miles that lead to the Tangle Lakes from Paxson are paved.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has its main facility in Tazlina (Mile 111 Richardson Hwy), with outlying stations in Ernestine (Mile 62 Richardson Hwy), Nelchina, Chitina, Paxson and Slana to carry out road maintenance.

There are freight services based in the Copper Valley and Anchorage area that service the area on a daily basis. Cars and U-Haul vehicles are available for rental in Glennallen.

The District Airport at Gulkana is classified as B-III by the State of Alaska. It has two paved runways, the longest 5000 x 100 ft., with a safety area of 300 x 6200 feet. It has a bearing capacity of 190,000 lbs. for a twin-type landing gear configuration. It can handle a Lear 35A and C-130. There are 67, primarily single engine aircraft based at the field with an average of 127 aircraft operations a week. About 46% are air taxi, 28% transient general aviation, 24% local general aviation and 2% military aircraft.

Regularly scheduled air service from the Copper Valley to Anchorage and McCarthy is only on Wednesdays and Fridays through Ellis Air Taxi. Flight service from Chitina to McCarthy is provided twice daily during the summer months with Wrangell Mountain Air based in McCarthy. There are several charter flight services available in the area for flight seeing and transportation based in Gulkana, McCarthy, Tolsona, Chisana and Nabesna.

The following public airports are located in the region with these classifications:

Gulkana: (District airport)	Thompson Pass (DNR owned, local)
Chitina: (community class/local)	Paxson-BLM owned (unclassified)
McCarthy: (community class/local)	Slana has a 1,800-ft. private strip at Duffy's Cafe
Chistochina: (local)	
Copper Center/Klutina: (local)	
Tazlina: (local) (in the Nelchina-Mendeltna area)	

There is fuel service at Gulkana airport and there are two businesses in the region which offer plane repair and maintenance, one in Gulkana and the other in Kenny Lake.

There are many private airstrips located throughout the valley.

Aviation Weather Service

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration maintains a weather station at the Gulkana Airport which gives pilots weather information and transmits data to the National Weather Service. It is open 15 ½ hours a day and maintained through a private contracting firm.

Electricity and Power

Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc. (CVEA) is a member-owned non-profit electric cooperative serving the City of Valdez and the Greater Copper Valley. CVEA was incorporated in 1955 in Glennallen, Alaska and began providing service to Valdez following the Great Alaskan Earthquake in 1964. CVEA is governed by an eight member board of directors elected to staggered three year terms by the membership. The annual meeting of members is held in the month of April. CVEA is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501 c 12 of the internal revenue code. Headquarters are located at Milepost 187 Glenn Highway in Glennallen, Alaska, and a District office is maintained in the City of Valdez. CVEA has 37 full time employees including 13 in power generation, 4 in engineering, 8 in operations and 12 in customer service, accounting and administration.

CVEA serves 3,600 customers (7,000 area residents) in a geographic area approximately the size of the state of West Virginia (23,000 square miles). CVEA's service area includes 156 miles of the Richardson Highway, 80 miles of the Glenn Highway, 12 miles of the Tok Road and 17 miles of the Edgerton Highway. Major customers include the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, the City of Valdez, Petro Star Valdez Refinery, High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP), the National Park Service, Princess Hotel, Alaska DOT, Valdez and Copper Basin Schools, three fish processors, and numerous other governmental and commercial customers.

CVEA's rules and regulations are set forth in a tariff which defines how the utility conducts business with its members. In 1998, CVEA's members chose to become exempt from economic regulation by the state's public utility commission and as such are regulated solely by the board of directors.

CVEA is a stand-alone utility that transmits and distributes electricity produced at four generating stations over 400 miles of distribution line to end consumers. CVEA operates and maintains two diesel plants, a cogeneration facility, and also operates under long term contract with the Four Dam Pool Power Agency (FDPPA), the Solomon Gulch hydro project and the related transmission system. CVEA has some unique electric reliability considerations in that the utility serves two distinctly different service areas which are separated by Thompson Pass. The areas are connected electrically by the FDPPA owned 138-kilovolt

transmission line that is prone to extended outages caused by avalanche (once as long as nine months). Given this constraint, CVEA must maintain adequate power generation capacity in both districts in the event the transmission line is out of service. The need to install and maintain generation in both the Valdez and Copper Basin districts accounts in large part for the high cost of electricity for the region.

The average revenue per kWh paid in 2002 by residential customers in the Copper Basin and Valdez was 18.6¢ and 16.0¢, respectively. This compares to other smaller communities on the road system such as Delta Junction, Healy, Nenana, Talkeetna, Hope, Moose Pass, and Whittier, who in 2002, paid 10–12¢ per kWh. CVEA does not receive power cost equalization from the state of Alaska.

Chitina Electric Inc. (CEI), a subsidiary of the Chitina Native Corporation, has been providing electric power to Chitina residents for 35 years. It owns three generators, with capacities of 135, 100 and 90 kW. It has three miles of line and services about 65 customers. With power cost equalization subsidies available from the State, the base cost of 34.5 ¢ per kWh is reduced by 12.5¢ per kWh for residential customers. There are no subsidies for businesses.

The privately owned company Alaska Power and Telephone Company provides electricity to Mentasta Lake and Chistochina. In Chistochina, the base electricity costs in spring 2003 were \$.41 per kWh. With Power Cost Equalization subsidies, residents pay \$.23 per kWh. This subsidy is not available to businesses.

Slana does not have commercial electric power and residents use private generators or solar power. Outlying residents along the McCarthy and Nabesna roads maintain their own generators, supplementing with solar generation. CVEA is planning to expand service to Lake Louise and to expand its generation capacity in Glennallen.

Fuel oil and propane are delivered by two local providers with offices in Glennallen. Mentasta and Slana are serviced by heating oil and propane providers in Tok. Most homes are heated with fuel oil and wood. Propane is generally used for cooking and heating water.

Communications:

AT&T Alascom has laid fiber optics under the Pacific Ocean for communications to Alaska. Currently the phone service goes from Glennallen through Anchorage on microwave and from Anchorage to Valdez on satellite. Fiber optics are currently being installed between the areas and should be completed in 2003.



The local service provider is Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative. The Cooperative is a rural independent telephone cooperative which serves members who live and work within 9000 square miles that include Valdez, Glennallen, Mentasta, Copper Center, Chitina, and Tatitlek. Copper Valley has had cellular service for several years. Some parts of the Copper Valley are still using radiophones but these are being phased out with cellular

service through Copper Valley Cellular based in Valdez. Alaska Telephone Company provides service to Chisana.

There are several Internet services available to local residents. Dial up and high-speed access are now available to residents. Chitina and more remote communities such as McCarthy are not serviced by local Internet service and must use a Satellite connection or long distance rates.

Interactive Television provides service for local schools and Prince William Sound Community College (PWSCC), providing linkages between district schools for classroom instruction and the Valdez campus for PWSCC.

The Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS) replaced Rural Alaska Television Network (RATNet) in 1995 and provides programming to 248 rural communities. There is a transmitter on Stuck Mountain near Willow Lake that broadcasts ARCS programming to Basin residents. ARCS offers a mix of educational, public, and commercial television from commercial Anchorage stations, as well as the Alaska Public Broadcasting Service.

Wrangell Mountain TV Club formed in the early 1970's to set up a transmitter on Willow Mountain for two to three stations. Installation was funded by grants and maintenance is funded by private donations, transmitting from satellites. Many residents also own private satellite dishes and local businesses provide equipment, consultation and installation

The Copper Valley bi-Weekly is the local newspaper published bi-weekly with a distribution of 800. The Anchorage Daily News can be delivered to most residents along the major road systems. The Valdez Star is also distributed free to Glennallen box holders.

Three radio stations service the area:

- KCAM–broadcast from Glennallen with support from SEND International, Inc, a Christian mission
- KCHU public radio, based in Valdez and translated in the Glennallen and McCarthy areas via transmitters on Tolsona Ridge along the Glenn Hwy and Swift Creek at Mile 56 of the McCarthy Road.
- KMBQ rebroadcast from Wasilla

Potable Water Resources:

Current water systems are public or private wells, and many households and businesses have water trucked in on a weekly basis from a private business in Glennallen (up to 3,000 gallons) or by Copper River Native Association in Copper Center. Residents that do not have a private well or have water that is not suitable for drinking haul their own water in 300–500 gallon tanks or small jugs for drinking. Public water distribution is available at the following locations:

- Tazlina RV Park, Mile 111 Richardson (privately owned–fee)
- Kenny Lake Community Well (donation requested)
- Kenny Lake Firehall (monthly fee collected)

- Gulkana Village
- Chitina Fire Hall(coin-operated)
- Mentasta Lake
- McCarthy uses public-accessible stream

Sewage Disposal

Only the Glennallen town area is serviced by a piped sewage system as the presence of poor soils and drainage could not handle the high concentration of waste from business and residential dwellings. The wastewater of some 60 customers is pumped up to sewage lagoons above the town. This is managed by the Glennallen Improvement Corporation, a non-profit entity, and its construction was funded by Alaska Village Safe Water. User fees fund the operations. There are plans to extend service to the Richardson Highway to accommodate additional customers including the visitor's center.

Most area residents use a septic tank system at their homes. All homes financed by the FHA must have a system built to Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation specifications. A few businesses and residents maintain holding tanks. Ahtna Inc. offices maintain their own sewage lagoon for their wastewater. Outhouses are also common when homes are on poor soils, and gray water drains into a sump area. The privately owned Copper Basin Sanitation offers a septic pumping service and maintains a leach field disposal system for the waste that it collects. In Glennallen, the Water Works and Northern Nights RV campgrounds offer RV septic disposal for a fee.

Copper Basin Sanitation also offers rental of portable toilets, 10,000-gallon sewer tanks, and has service for sewer line steaming, thawing, cleaning and snaking.

JD Services in Tok services the Mentasta and Slana area with septic pumping.

Refuse Collection and Recycling

The locally owned Copper Basin Sanitation (CBS) is a private business that provides refuse collection service for Glennallen, Gakona, Gulkana, Sourdough, Meiers Lake, Paxson, Tangle Lakes, Chistochina, Indian River, Slana, Tazlina, Copper Center, Kenny Lake, Chitina, McCarthy, and Tonsina, and Teikel. Transfer sites in Nelchina and Lake Louise Road are serviced by Wasilla Refuse Inc. JD Refuse Service in Tok services the village of Mentasta Lake. The Village provides dumpsters for the offices, clinic and local families. The Alaska Public Utilities Commission certifies all three utilities. Tolsona Corporation operates its own landfill for their community. Mentasta Lake also used two dump sites located on private land, and has a local dumping area for old cars.

Households can have private collection service with CBS Services, with the rates dependent upon volume and location within the valley. The refuse is taken to the Glennallen Regional Landfill located at Mile 123 of the Richardson Hwy, which is on land leased from the State of Alaska by CBS Services. The underlying

soils are several hundred feet of silty clays that pose little threat of leaching from the landfill. In 2001, about 8,000 cubic yards of waste were taken to the landfill.



Local recycling options are available in Glennallen for paper, newspaper, and aluminum cans and in Chistochina for aluminum cans, antifreeze and used oil. This is managed by the non-profit group Recycling Our Area's Resources (ROAR) in Glennallen at a monthly drop-off, and in Chistochina by the Cheesh'Na Village Council.

Many residents and businesses burn much of their paper and cardboard waste in burn barrels in their yards to avoid dumping costs and to save landfill space.

SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND SERVICES

Government

The area is all rural or remote, as defined by the Alaska Rural Governance Commission. It is in the unorganized borough area of the state with no incorporated municipalities, other than eight tribal village councils that govern their villages. Many communities have non-profit community-based groups or leagues that have historically received capital matching grant monies and revenue sharing monies from the State of Alaska for operation of area services and infrastructure. The capital matching grant monies and revenue sharing monies from the State of Alaska are no longer funded. The schools are funded through the State of Alaska.

The Alaska State Legislature is the direct governing body of the area. The area is represented in the State Legislature by Senate District F and C whose seats are now filled by Gene Therriault and Georgianna Lincoln. House Districts F12 and C6 are filled by Representatives John Harris and Carl Morgan.

Borough formation is a controversial subject in the region for a variety of reasons, including opposition to property tax. Currently, there is a disincentive for borough formation for the region. Under State law, if a borough forms, the full value determination for determining the local contribution for education includes the Trans Alaska Pipeline (TAPS). A 2001 estimate values the TAPS at about \$420 million. To meet the 4-mill requirement for education, the value of the TAPS alone would require the borough to fund approximately \$1.6 million for education. The Local Boundary Commission has proposed changes to existing law which would remove disincentives for forming a borough, one of which is to remove the requirement of including the value of TAPS in the full value of determination if a borough does not levy a property tax. In this region, a 10-mill property tax (that includes TAPS) would yield a little over \$5 million, annually.

Medical and Health Services

Cross Roads Medical Center is a family practice clinic with licensed physicians and support staff keeping regular weekday hours with a nurse on around the clock. It provides rural general medical care with health screening supported by x-ray, lab and a licensed pharmacy. There are four beds in the facility for overnight care. A Physical Therapist is also on staff. There is 24-hour emergency and trauma service with access to air ambulance services. The closest full-service hospitals are located in Palmer, Valdez and Anchorage.

The Glennallen Chiropractic Clinic offers full chiropractic services and there is a massage therapist with a clinic in Glennallen, doing outreach to Kenny Lake.

The Alaska Department of Public Health operates the Glennallen Health Center, located at Mile 186 on the Glenn Highway, which has an itinerant public health nurse who is in the community during the third week of each month. The center furnishes some preventative medications, family planning, prenatal and well-child screening, immunizations and TB tests, STD and HIV screening and counseling, and health and parenting education. Visits are done in the Glennallen clinic, in homes and at area schools.

Copper River Native Association has health clinics staffed with community Home Health Aides or Aide Practitioners in the villages of Copper Center, Tazlina, Mentasta, Chistochina and Gulkana. They provide health care assessment, treatment and referrals in consultation with a licensed physician. They conduct routine lab tests and provide health education. They provide outreach services to area schools for health education.

CRNA also operates the Wrangell Mountain Dental Clinic, which staffs a dentist and hygienist. They do outreach and education to students at the local elementary schools, supplying fluoride rinses and dental hygiene education.

Social Services:

The following agencies have offices located in the Copper Valley:

- Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, ESD–Glennallen, offers career and vocational counseling and information, employment services and listing of job openings.
- Copper River Community Mental Health Center, Copper Center under Copper River Native Association provides counseling, referrals, family planning, Twelve–Step Support groups, and substance abuse counseling.
- Hudson Lake, substance abuse facility
- Summer Safety Swim program administered by CRNA in Copper Center
- Senior Nutrition Program administered by Tanana Chiefs
- Copper Valley Learning Center and Daycare is a non–profit organization in Glennallen providing daycare for children aged 3 months to 12 years.
- Head Start has a facility in Copper Center for pre–school education for qualifying families
- Connecting Ties in Glennallen provides support for people experiencing disabilities.
- Job Ready trains people to be home health aides and to assist the aged and disabled.
- Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium provides a substance abuse/alcohol program in Mentasta Village.
- Court advocates

Fire Protection and Emergency Services

The Copper River Emergency Services has a staff of 2 backed by several volunteer first responders and an ambulance service. It serves the entire Copper River Region training volunteers and acquiring needed equipment and funds. Ambulances are housed in Chitina, Kenny Lake, Glennallen and Copper Center

Volunteer fire stations are located in Chitina, Kenny Lake, Silver Springs, Copper Center, Tazlina, Glennallen, Gakona, and Tolsona.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources has its headquarters for the Southcentral fire district in Tazlina and maintains equipment and staff during the summer fire season. The Tazlina Hot Shots also have their base of operations out of Glennallen.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee is responsible for putting together a strategic plan for dealing with catastrophic events and emergencies in the community.

Housing

Housing and apartments are limited in the Copper River Valley. Prices for an average three bedroom home can range from \$80,000.00 to \$200,000.00, depending upon the amenities. Raw land is approximately \$2,000.00 per acre in larger tracts to \$12,000.00 per acre in a subdivision. Forty percent of the housing in the region is substandard and is usually owned, not rented.

Copper Valley Regional Housing Authority (CRBRHA) provides affordable housing for families and individuals from moderate to low-income residents in the Ahtna region. CRBRHA manages about 100 rental units, ranging from efficiency models to four bedroom units. These are located in Gulkana, Gakona, Chistochina, Mentasta, Tazlina, Kluti Kaah (Copper Center) and Chitina. An average monthly rent runs about \$500.00 to \$1200. CRBRHA also assists tribal members to obtain assistance through the Housing Preservation Program to improve existing homes.

Because much of the land is federal, state, or Native-owned, property for development is found in a few select locations. There is one local real estate agency that assists individuals and private businesses in locating suitable properties. A few properties are listed with agencies located outside the region.

Schools and Education

The main office for the Copper River School District is located in Glennallen. There are about 600 students throughout the area. Schools are located in the following communities: Glennallen K-12; Copper Center K-6; Kenny Lake; K-12; Gakona K-5; Chistochina K-6; and Slana K-12.

The Gateway School District, headquartered in Tok, administers the Mentasta School which has an enrollment of 34.

There is a private school located at SAPA Christian Center in Kenny Lake.

Because of the distance in some instances, and personal choice in others, correspondence or home schooling is a viable option for local education. Certified correspondence courses are available through the Copper River School District and the Alaska State Home Schooling Program.

Vocational education

The Prince William Sound Community College(PWSCC), which is located at mile 188 on the Glenn Highway, is part of the University of Alaska with independent accreditation. PWSCC's main campus is in Valdez with extension campuses located in the Copper Valley and Cordova. The community college offers a variety of certificates and degrees including Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Applied Science degrees in Office

Management and Technology and Human Services. Several vocational certificates are offered as well as a comprehensive Adult Basic Education program, which includes General Education Diploma (GED) preparation and testing. Services are available in many of the local villages and communities throughout the Copper Basin. Several courses are offered by distant education methods that include video streaming, computer/on line, and independent study.

The Alaska Bible College is located in Glennallen and offers post secondary education to an average of 60 full and part-time students yearly (45 Full-time equivalency units). Fully accredited, the college offers a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree with four emphases, a two-year associate of arts degree, a two-year Bible and Ministry Certificate, and a one-year Bible Certificate program.

Cultural and Recreational Resources

With impressive scenery and opportunities of hunting, fishing, canoeing, river-floating, snow machining, boating, backpacking, skiing, horseback riding, dog-mushing and camping, the area has great recreational opportunities. The area has two rivers with world-class king and red salmon sport fisheries. It has at least seven float rivers that are road-accessible at beginning and end.

The land available for recreation varies greatly from summer to winter. Since much of the basin is low, boggy ground, it lends itself more to winter activities; the frozen ground allows greater access to the land.

In addition to a growing number of RV parks owned by private individuals, four agencies provide and manages recreation resources in the Copper Valley. They are the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks (DNR). BLM also manages approximately 1,400 miles of trails in the region, for both foot and ATV access along with the Gulkana Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

There are public libraries in Glennallen and Kenny Lake. In the summer of 2004, Ahtna Heritage Foundation will open a cultural museum in the Wrangell – St. Elias National Park Visitor Center. The George Ashby Museum is in Copper Center.

Financial Institutions

Wells Fargo Bank operates a full-service branch in Glennallen.

Copper Valley Economic Council	
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Section V

Regional Economy

Where we are

Major Economic Sectors

Contributions to Employment

Income and Revenue

Economic Sectors Graph

Services

- Private Business
- Education
- Health and Social Service

Public and Private Administration

- State of Alaska
- Federal
- Private & Non Profit Corporations

Tourism and Visitor Services

- Visitor Facilities
- Guided Tours

Construction and Maintenance

Natural Resource Development and Research

- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Mining
- Trapping and Fur Farming
- Gas and Oil Development
- HAARP

Small Business and Manufacturing

Economic Analysis

- Relationship of Area to State
- Locational Advantages and Disadvantages
- Cost of Living
- Factors Directly/Indirectly Affecting Performance

Economic Opportunities

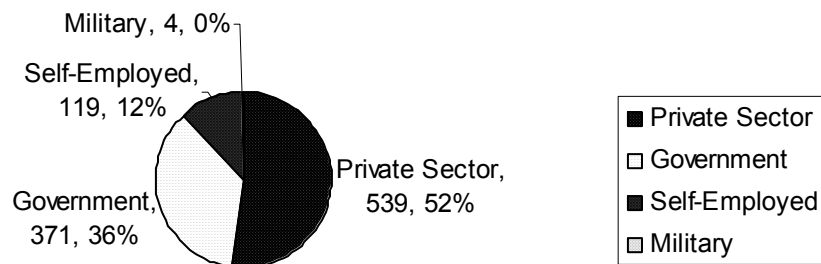
- Natural Resource Development

Major Economic Sectors–Contributions to Employment, Income and Revenue, past, present and future

Economic Sectors Graph

The graph below demonstrates the different sectors of the economy and how they contribute to local jobs

Jobs Per Economic Sector



All data from this graph from 2000 census figures

SERVICES

This sector servicing the resident population is the largest percentage of the employment in the region. Although many of the basic service and retail business are privately owned, much of the funding for these and the other service jobs comes from State and Federal monies supporting the local resident needs.

Private Businesses and Services, Retail and Wholesale Trade:

The sector provides services to local residents and businesses, and agencies such as groceries, basic supplies and repairs, utilities and fuel, and financial and real estate.

Utilities and Basic Services

While most are privately owned, the two major utilities are public-owned cooperatives. This sector has been steadily increasing as the population grows and the increased number of residents assures the basis for business success. With the advent of internet services and increased use of phone lines for telecommunication, the number of phone lines has risen from 1979 in 1998 to 2508 in 2003. Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative employs 9 full time people with an additional 4 hired full time/seasonal.

Chitina Electric, Inc. has three full time employees, a manager, an accountant and plant operator.

Water Works, a privately-owned business that delivers water to area residents, employs 3 residents. Copper River Native Association delivers water one time per week using one of 3 full time employees at CRNA.

Copper Basin Sanitation, a privately owned business, employs 7 full-time and 3 part-time people in its office, at the landfill, and as drivers and maintenance workers. As the population changes and visitor numbers increase, their volume of business has grown an average of 8% per year over the last five years.

The weather service at the Gulkana airport is a private firm contracted to Federal Aviation Administration that employs 3 ½ full time positions.

The Glennallen Improvement Association employs 1 ½ full time positions, maintaining the local sewer system.

Education:

The three major education institutions provide many high quality jobs in the area. The Copper River School District employed 50 certified teachers and an additional 19 as instructional aids, 6 in the administrative office, and 19 as administrative and food service aides and in custodial services. These employees all receive retirement and health benefits through the State of Alaska.

Prince William Sound Community College employs two full time staff to administer their courses and facilities. There are two part-time staff in Adult Basic Education and 4–5 part-time tutors in outlying

areas. A part-time student hire each semester assists the administrative staff. About 10–15 local residents obtain part-time employment each term teaching classes through the college. This is a State-funded institution, with additional proceeds from student tuition. Most students are already residents of the community when enrolling in classes.

The Alaska Bible College has a staff of 10 instructors and administrators (some do both duties) and 11 support staff. Their primary income sources are gift income, student tuition and fees, and their Auxiliary. The majority of these students come from outside the region.

Health, Social and Emergency Services:

The primary health care provider in the region, Cross Roads Medical Center, employs two full time licensed physicians, a nurse practitioner, a registered pharmacist, along with twenty either full or part-time support staff. They offer lab, x-ray, 24 hour emergency services, observation beds, and physical therapy.

The State of Alaska has reduced the presence of its Public Health Services in the community over the past few years. They continue to lease and maintain a facility, but no longer supply an office assistant to the program. The public health nurse frequents the area for one week a month and uses local facilities for housing.

Copper River Native Association, (CRNA) operates and staffs four clinics. There are two full time staff members in Copper Center with one itinerant employee, one full time employee in Tazlina, one full time employee in Gulkana with one on call person that serves both Tazlina and Gulkana. There is one full time person in Cantwell with one itinerant staff.

CRNA also manages the Wrangell Mountain Dental Clinic, which supports a full-time dentist and hygienist, along with 4 support staff.

Most of these social and medical services administered by CRNA are funded by appropriations from State and Federal programs. Clinic fees supplement these revenues. In past years, an optometrist had a full-

time residence and business in the community. That ended in 2001, and the nearest optometrist is now based in Valdez.

There is a private practice with a registered chiropractor and one support staff for that office.

Alaska State Troopers operates out of Glennallen, with up to 3 troopers and a dispatcher. One full time administrator, one part-time staff person and over 40 volunteers make up Copper River Emergency Services, or CREMS. The fire departments in the Copper Valley are entirely operated by community volunteers.

Public and Private Administration

State of Alaska:

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources has its headquarters for the Valdez/Copper River Area in Tazlina and maintains equipment and staff during the summer fire season. The Valdez/Copper River Area office is under the Northern Regional Office located in Fairbanks.

With more than 3 million acres of State lands in the region, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources with its Division of Forestry has traditionally been a large employer in the region.

The Division of Forestry maintains an office year-round, with one full time employee and 10 permanent seasonal employees working in administration, forestry and fire control. The Tazlina office is one of the four central fire service centers in the Northern Region for the State of Alaska, covering the area south of the Alaska Range and there is a large staff in the summer months for fire protection, maintaining equipment and response to wildfires.

In 1997, seasonal park ranger position was eliminated from the area and campground servicing has been contracted to private individuals in the community. Three Alaska Conservation Corps summer employees, ranger and maintenance assistance positions were also eliminated with these positions. Three campgrounds were closed or are no longer maintained.

The Department of Fish and Game maintains an administrative office in Glennallen, employing 5 permanent and 10 seasonal persons.

Federal:

The two largest federal employers in the Copper Valley are Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and the Bureau of Land Management.

Wrangell–St. Elias was established in 1980, with offices staffed in 1981 with less than 10 employees stationed in Copper Center. Since then, there have been offices established in Slana and Copper Center, maintenance and hanger operations in Glennallen and McCarthy, and visitor information services in Chitina and McCarthy. In 2003, the construction of 8 residential units were completed for newly arriving and summer seasonal employees, providing temporary housing. In 2001, newly constructed visitor interpretation facilities and staff headquarter offices were completed near Copper Center.

In 1998, there were 20 permanent full-time employees and 20 summer seasonal workers. In 2002, the number of full time employees rose to 50 with 50 seasonal workers employed in Copper Center, Slana , Kennecott/McCarthy, Chitina, and Yakutat. Those who are employed with the National Park Service work in visitor interpretive services, cultural and biological resources, law enforcement and maintenance.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff has also grown over the past five years. The Glennallen Field Office is responsible for the management of approximately 7.3 million acres of land in southern Alaska, including the Trans-Alaska pipeline corridor, the Denali Hwy Corridor, the Delta and Gulkana Wild and Scenic River Corridors and the Bering Glacier. Acreage under BLM management has been decreasing as lands become selected and conveyed to the State of Alaska and Native regional and village corporations under ANCSA. The BLM manages a large network of trails and the federal subsistence hunts. In 1998, there were 12 full time and 3 seasonal employees with 10 volunteers stationed out of Glennallen. In 2003 that had increased to 20 full time employees, 11 seasonal workers, 13 volunteers and 2 “Campground Host” volunteers.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service opened two offices in the area in 2002, for two new positions in the community.

Private Corporations and Non-Profits:

Collectively, one of the largest employers in the Copper Valley is the staff of the Native regional corporation, Ahtna, Inc., and the Village Tribal Councils and Village Corporations who manage Native lands and programs. Offices for these entities are in Glennallen, Copper Center, Chistochina and Chitina.

Tourism and Visitor Services:

For well over 100 years, visitors have been making their way to the picturesque communities of the Copper Valley. The region's most striking characteristic is its combination of accessibility and natural, scenic beauty and wilderness solitude. Because of its central location, it is easily accessible from Tok, Fairbanks, Valdez, and Anchorage. Predicted by the Alaska Visitor Association, *"The Wrangell–St. Elias National Park area holds the greatest potential for tourism development in the State of Alaska."* The fisheries and improved recreational access attract increasing numbers of visitors each year.

A new Princess Resort Hotel opened in 2002 with 85 rooms of double occupancy, in conjunction with the new Wrangell St Elias Visitor Center. Other major hotels are in the planning stages. The National Park Service is restoring the Kennecott Mine as a tourist attraction, as well as upgrading other visitor amenities within the Park. Marketing for winter tourism and recreation is

taking place with a major dog sled race and snow machine race now in place. Heliskiing developing in the Thompson Pass has also brought increased winter visitors passing through the area. The road transportation improvements are making access to the Valley much easier and safer. These and other tourist development activities will bring in ever increasing numbers of visitors to the area.

Visitor travel through the area is of three major types:

- Those people traveling through the area to reach major destinations such as Valdez, Anchorage and Fairbanks, including motor coach tours
Most tourists are on a loop from Anchorage to the ferry at Valdez, leaving or entering Alaska by way of Tok, or coming south from Fairbanks to fish in Prince William Sound
- A growing number of visitors choosing to stay and explore the area with the growing number of visitor services and tours now available . Likewise, those bound for the region's major draw, the McCarthy/Kennecott area is beginning to become a destination.
- Large groups of sportsmen, primarily Alaskan residents who travel to the area for caribou and moose hunting, salmon dip netting and sport fishing.

Alaska Visitor Statistics Program (AVSP) data is available only for the community of Glennallen. However, since most of the visitor traffic to the region flows through Glennallen, it provides a reasonable representation of visitation to the region. According the AVSP, more than 100,000 nonresident visitors traveled to Glennallen during the summer of 1993. A majority of visitors to Glennallen were independent travelers (95%).

Visitor Facilities:

There is one major year-round hotel in Glennallen that is frequented by travelers and visiting business and agency personnel. Several small lodges, bed and breakfasts and cabin complexes house visitors year-round. Availability increases in the summer months with the Princess Lodge and many bed and breakfasts and RV parks opening in May for the summer visitors. This employs students and local residents, along with an influx of seasonal employees to work in the visitor industry. The Chamber of Commerce has a half-time employee that maintains the visitor center year-round, although with limited hours during the summer months. Most of the staff at the center are local volunteers. Most of the lodges and hotels also offer meal service, which also employs local and non-resident employees.



Guided Tours:

A small but growing number of flight seeing and guided hiking operations are based in McCarthy, Chitina, and other communities along the Richardson Highway. The opening of the Princess Hotel brought a dramatic increase in the number of guided tours available to visitors, most of them based out of the hotel in Copper Center. These include dog mushing (on land), river rafting on the Copper River, jet boat tours on the Klutina River, airboat tours on the Copper River, ATV vehicle tours and horseback rides. Tours to surrounding visitor Facilities, museums and communities are also available.

*Picture used with permission of
River Menzies*

Guided snow machine tours are also being developed by local businesses. Currently, local residents with small businesses and village corporations are offering these tours. Individuals based outside of the region also run some of these tours.

Guided and Unguided Fishing and Hunting, Including Subsistence:

The Copper River is world renowned for its red and king salmon. For a number of years, there has been guided fishing on the Klutina River in jet boats and along the Gulkana River in rafts. Annual angler days in the Copper Valley increased steadily through the mid-1990s. Certain fisheries are experiencing sustained growth – most notably fishing for king salmon along the Gulkana and Klutina Rivers. The harvest there rose from 532 in 1977 to 8,868 in 1997. There are 21 fishing guides registered for the Copper Center, Gakona, and Glennallen areas. A significant increase was seen during the 2002 season as restrictions and closures occurred for the salmon fishing on the Kenai River.

Several residents in the Kenny Lake area make a living working on or having businesses with fishing charters based in Valdez.

Many Alaska residents rely on the fish resources of the area for subsistence / personal use. The Chitina dip net personal use fishery is one of the most popular in the state. The Chitina subsistence dip net fishery is also attracting a growing number of Alaskans. The number of issued personal use permits has gone down since 1998. The Department of Fish and Game reports seeing nearly 9,000 to 10,000 permits

in 1998, but only 6,800 permits were issued in 2002. And the subsistence permits issued have declined as well from 1,284 in 2000 to 1,112 last year.

The river and lake systems in the area support numerous species of fish. Other well known fish include rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, whitefish, burbot, grayling, steelhead and northern pike. These also attract a growing number of Alaskan and non-residents as other areas of the State become more developed and crowded.

There are 10 hunting guides registered to guide in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve, some of them headquartered in Chisana, Nabesna, McCarthy and remote private in-holdings in the Park. Most of these visitors fly in and spend little time in the Copper Basin communities.

Alaskan residents generally travel through the area to hunt on the road system. With 2,146 Tier II permits for the State subsistence hunt of the Nelchina Caribou herd, hundreds of Alaskan residents from outside the region travel through the area on their way to the designated subsistence hunt areas. Tier II hunts are subsistence hunts that are applied for through Alaska Fish and Game. Under state law, all Alaskan residents are eligible for subsistence hunting on game populations where subsistence use occurs. Those Alaskans that are issued a Tier II Supplement are those whose customary and direct dependence on the game population by the subsistence user for human consumption is a mainstay of livelihood, and also their ability to obtain food is otherwise restricted or eliminated. These of course are not guided and mostly add revenues to local merchants who sell supplies, gas and sometimes accommodations, although many are self-contained.

Construction and Maintenance

Private:

The largest construction firm in the region is Ahtna Construction and Primary Products. They also secure contracts outside of the region, but house their workshops and offices in the community. There are also smaller privately-owned construction firms that work on small business and home construction. Generally large construction projects such as schools have major contractors based outside of the area, but subcontract to local businesses for different aspects of the project.

State and Federal:

The largest construction and maintenance employer is the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. It does not house its administrative offices in the area, but maintains 6 Stations with road crews for construction and maintenance in the summer and snow removal in the winter. There are some seasonal employees hired in the summer to help with the maintenance of facilities and roads. The

National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management also hires several summer maintenance employees to build and maintain trails and visitor facilities.

Natural Resource Development

Forestry:

Ahtna, Inc. is the primary private forest landowner along with the Tazlina Village and Chitina Village Corporations. The Alaska Division of Forestry and Bureau of Land Management also manage some lands for commercial harvest. Over the past decade, the spruce bark beetle has infested approximately 700,000 acres of forest in the Copper River Valley, killing many older white spruce trees in the area. As a result, private landowners, such as Ahtna, are looking at stumpage sales of beetle-killed timber to reduce fire hazards and return lands to productive forests. White spruce has excellent structural quality, uniformity and strength and is a favorite for use in construction and a popular choice for log homes. The pulp is also widely used for paper production because of its strength and ability to bleach easily to white and future sales of white spruce and aspen have been proposed for export to be used in paper production.



A local sawmill owned by SAPA in the Kenny Lake area harvests and mills timber for beams, log cabin construction and rough-cut dimensional lumber. They also market firewood along with a few other small businesses in the area. Wood is readily available and is already an important heating fuel in many communities.

The occurrence of diamond willow is common throughout the area, which has growing interest by woodcrafters. Diamond willow, with its 'diamonds', is an excellent choice for hand crafted canes, furniture, and decorations.

Agriculture:

There are approximately 2000 acres in production at this time, mostly in the Kenny Lake area. About 20 families are earning some income from farming and agriculture in the region. Current crops in production are brome grass hay, oats and alfalfa, and small acreages of potatoes and vegetables. Kenny Lake farmers produce the highest quality hay in the State of Alaska. Many families maintain home gardens for personal use. SAPA greenhouses produce bedding plants and flowers for both the Glennallen and Valdez markets.



There is limited livestock production at this time, with local production of beef and hogs. A local processor in Kenny Lake processes local products, along with facilities in Wasilla. Eggs are also produced for the local market.

An access road to State agricultural lands has been developed on the west side of the pipeline with some 2,000 acres identified for an agricultural land disposal, with several more

thousand acres showing agricultural potential. Two large tracts along the Richardson of 320 acres each are currently being cleared and developed by local farmers.

Agricultural opportunities exist currently on approximately 75,000 acres.

Mining:

There is a long history of copper and gold mining in the region. Deposits of minerals that include gold, copper, zinc, tungsten, lead, molybdenum, nickel, and cobalt have been identified. There has been interest in developing hard rock deposits of platinum north of the Denali Highway near Tangle Lakes. Several placer gold deposits are active in holdings within the National Park.

Fisheries:

The Gulkana River Hatchery near Paxson is the largest producer of sockeye salmon fry in the world. It is also the largest incubation facility for all species of salmon. The economic value to the commercial fishing industry equals approximately \$3,971,000 a year. This does not include the fish caught for subsistence use or sport fishing. The Gulkana River Hatchery employs up to 4 permanent and 19 seasonal residents through the year and provides a substantial economic return to the local community. Additional employees with both state and federal agencies continue research into improving development and expansion of other species of fish in the area.

Trapping and Fur Farming:

The Copper Valley is home to many furbearers, fox, coyote, wolf, lynx, martin, ermine and wolverine. There are approximately 100 trappers a year who trap furbearers in Game Management 13. Trappers do not register, they simply get trapping licenses, and not for specific areas. Many prices for these furs have dropped significantly over the past few years due to the increased number of uniform-quality farmed furs now available on the market. The local fur dealer recently closed his business and now furs must be brokered in Fairbanks, Anchorage or sold to individuals. Traditionally, there were several fur farmers in the Kenny Lake area, but there is now only two businesses in Kenny Lake that raise silver fox for the fur market.

Gas and Oil Development and Servicing:

The construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline was the single largest boom to area growth that has occurred in recent history. Population numbers in the community increased dramatically in the mid-70's and although they decreased after the construction ended, they never returned to pre-pipeline levels as workers chose to make their residence in the community.

Alyeska Pipeline Company continues to employ some area residents at Pump Station 11 at Mile 188 Glenn Hwy; most workers at Pump Station 12 (Mile 65 Richardson Hwy) are based in other parts of the state and reside at the station during their tour of duty.

Although coal is present in the region, the natural gas potential is low. Nonetheless, there is interest in exploring for coal bed methane gas. Ahtna, Inc is actively encouraging gas drilling in the region and provides support for Forest Oil Corporation, the operator of the exploration lease. Forest Oil is conducting on-the-ground geologic work, as well as purchasing some seismic work. Forest Oil must complete the exploration work to gain rights to the leases for about 400,000 acres north and west of Copper Center, including Glennallen.

Alaskans recently voted to establish a State-owned Authority to develop gas reserves and transportation of these reserves to Valdez along the existing Trans Alaska Pipeline corridor. This would again bring an influx of construction and maintenance workers to the region.

HAARP

High Frequency Active Aurora Research Program (HAARP), is operated by the US Department of Defense near Gakona. It is used for upper atmospheric and solar-terrestrial research. It was designed and built by Advance Power

Technologies, Inc., a subsidiary of Raytheon corporation, with involvement of staff from several universities, including the University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute. Some local construction companies, including Ahtna Construction

were employed for initial construction and now provide nightly security coverage. Local surveyors were also employed. Although the high energy demands of the testing are fulfilled with on-site generators, local utilities provide housekeeping power and telephone, and local utilities and service providers supply water, trash and sewer removal and routine cleaning.

Small Manufacturing:

This is probably one of the smallest sectors of the region's economy. There are local entrepreneurs and small businesses with home-based businesses in crafts, using local wood, furs and other materials to produce goods for the locals and visitors to the area.



Anny M's Catering, a local cottage industry in Kenny Lake, Alaska

Relationship of Area's Economy to State, Locational Advantages and Disadvantages

Advantages:

- On the road system with easy access to Anchorage
- Crossroads of many travel routes and destinations

- Gateway to Wrangell–St. Elias National Park and Preserve, World Heritage Site
- The Trans–Alaska pipeline corridor passes through the Copper Valley on its route to Valdez. There is potential for access to natural gas if it is transported along this corridor.
- Access to Copper River and fish resources
- 100 miles from ice–free port
- No property taxes
- No sales or income taxes
- No zoning or building permits required for home construction

Disadvantages:

- Difficult to track changes in labor force and other statistics as lumped into the Cordova/Valdez Census area and not differentiated in reporting
- Not on rail system or power grid
- Too close to Anchorage to develop local economies
- Rural Character associated with bush, but not roadless, so disadvantaged from certain programs designated only for roadless bush.

Factors Directly and Indirectly Affecting Economic Performance

Environmental factors:

- Winter temperatures and darkness
- Winter road conditions
- Permafrost in combination with fine–textured soils for construction
- Low forest productivity
- Lack of potable water and drilling of wells is an expensive and risky proposition, and maintenance is costly in cold temperatures due to the high cost of electricity.
- Difficulty installing approved septic and sewage treatment systems and lack of piped systems outside of Glennallen
- Distance to markets and ports
- Low population and population density
- High cost of power
- Not linked to state rail system
- No access to natural gas reserves
- Lack of private land
- Limited health care facilities
- Limited home health care providers
- Limited low cost housing
- Limited housing meeting AHFC loan requirements
- Low school enrollment for more school opportunities and programs
- Lack of skilled and well–educated work force

- Limited access to news outlets and mass communication, Internet, especially in outlying communities
- Limited childcare and after school programs for working parents
- Limited business opportunities due to proximity of communities to large Anchorage markets
- Limited professional services
- Limited local options for financial lending
- Cost of living
- Limited office and retail space for rent or lease
- High substance abuse rates
- High cost of fuel
- High cost of homeowners insurance for fire protection
- Lack of availability of homeowners insurance

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

- Tourism
- Forestry
- Small Manufacturing
- Oil and Gas Development
- More local services that economically fit the needs of residents
- Mining
- Niche agricultural markets and agricultural development

The major resources of the area are the natural beauty, wildlife, forest products, minerals, agriculture, oil and natural gas (undeveloped). The Copper Valley is experiencing substantial growth, with little or no infrastructure or capacities to manage that growth.

There are several major economic development projects on the horizon. Some of those proposed are:

- A Natural Gas Pipeline from the North Slope to Valdez.
- Major hotels
- Anchor businesses
- Railroad expansion connecting the area to existing rail lines
- Continued recreational access enhancements
- Native Corporation land use developments

If any or all of these projects come to fruition the impact on the area could be profound.

Existing Plans and Planning Processes in Region

State of Alaska

DOT&PF

McCarthy Road/Chitina Valley Roundtable Project Phase III Report, August 2002

DNR

Forestry

Parks

Federal Agencies

Copper Valley RC&D

NPS

Kennecott Mine Site Development

Backcountry Plan

Ahtna, Inc. and Village Corporations

Utilities

Copper Valley Electric Association

Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative

Communities

<p>Copper Valley Economic Co Copper Valley RC&D Cour Regional Development Stra</p>	<p>Regional Vision Statement Regional Goals, Objectives and Strategies Sub Regional Priorities</p>
<p>Vision, Goals, Objectives and Strategies</p> <p><i>Where we are going</i></p>	

VI VISION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

REGIONAL VISION STATEMENT:

The Copper Valley will be a place where cultural and ethnic diversity shall be embraced, and where a subsistence and rural lifestyle will be maintained and strong healthy family values cultivated. Any economic growth will be balanced with our desire to protect the environment and retain our current lifestyle. Our communications will foster greater ties between private and public entities to create a cohesive region in which partnerships and collaborations are encouraged. The Copper Valley will become an attractive and inviting place to live, work and play.



REGIONAL GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES:

Presented in Order of Priority

Regional Strategies Common to All Goals and Objectives

At every meeting held by CVDA, a common theme implementing the strategies identified below was expressed. A majority of the participants wanted to maintain their existing rural lifestyle which included no forms of organized government. Participants expressed grave concerns regarding the topic of local government and taxes and were against the prospect of creating a Borough and levying taxes. The residents expressed the desire to accomplish these goals through volunteerism (local community action committees), working with existing state and federal organizations and the help of organizations like CVDA, Kenny Lake Community League, McCarthy Council, Native Corporations, etc.

Utilities /Potable Water

Goal: All residents will have access to Commercial utilities that are affordable and reliable. All residents who so desire will have access to potable water.

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Strategies</i>	<i>Beginning Timeline</i>	<i>Potential Partners</i>
Provide and maintain more public rest areas with restroom facilities and refuse disposal.	Encourage and support the Department of Transportation to increase the amount of rest area on Copper Valley Road systems.	FY04	CVDA, CVRC&D, DOT, DNR, NPS
Provide reliable, clean safe water that is more accessible to remote areas	Encourage and support villages, communities and Tribal Governments in their efforts to install community wells.	FY 04	CVDA, CVRC&D, DOT, DNR, NPS

Analysis of Utilities and Potable Water:

Economic Advantages:

- On the road system to Anchorage
- Cross Roads to many travel destinations within Alaska

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Rural character associated with bush, but not a road less community, therefore not eligible to participate in programs designated for road less communities.
- Lack of potable water and drilling of wells is an expensive and risky proposition, and maintenance is costly during cold temperatures due to the high cost of power and fuel.

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Small Manufacturing
- ⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents
- ⇒ Niche Agricultural markets and agricultural development

Education and Youth Opportunities

Goal: To Create a qualified future workforce by offering quality education and adequate recreational opportunities for the youth of the Copper Valley

*Objectives
Strategies
Beginning Timeline
Potential Partners*

Encourage long term plan to provide mobile school rooms to address the fluctuating enrollment in various communities.
Support communities and Copper River School District in efforts to maintain portable buildings for the use of classrooms.
FY 04

CRSD

Students shall learn skills that will prepare them vocationally and academically for future employment

- Support educators in program development for more vocational and technical curriculum.
- Increase intern and mentoring programs.

FY05

FY 06

CRSD, AI, BLM, NPS, CRSD

Meaningful opportunities for employment and recreation will be offered to the youth of the Copper Valley by its businesses, industries, communities and governments.
Support local business, industry, communities and government in offering divergent and meaningful employment and recreation opportunities to Copper Valley Youth

FY06

CRSD, AI, BLM, NPS, CRSD

Insure that education will produce literate functional and productive citizens.
Support educators in program development for more vocational and technical Curriculum.

FY06

Analysis of Education and Youth Opportunities:

Economic Advantages:

- Gateway to Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve
- Trans Alaska Pipeline corridor passes through the Copper Valley en route to Valdez with the potential for access to natural gas if it is transported along this corridor

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Low school enrollment for core school opportunities and programs.
- Lack of adequately trained work force.
- Limited childcare and after school programs available for children of working parents
- High substance abuse rate

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Small Manufacturing
- ⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents
- ⇒ Mining
- ⇒ Oil and Gas Development
- ⇒ Forestry

Resource Utilization and Conservation

Goal: Resources will be used in an environmentally responsible way by all Copper Valley industries.

Objective
Strategy
Beginning Timeline
Potential Partners

Public lands will be open and accessible to responsible and environmentally sound extraction of natural resources.
Support the development of mining, petroleum and logging

FY 04

CVDA, CVRC&D, BLM, DNR, NPS, AI

Government and industry will work together on projects to utilize and conserve resources.

- Increase awareness of recycling through education and PSA.
- Support the efforts of locally driven recycling program (R.O.A.R.)

FY 04

FY 04

CVDA, CVRC&D, BLM, DNR, NPS, AI

State and federal agencies will be sensitive and open to the regions use of its natural resources through community forums.

Support the development of inventories of renewable resources and non-renewable resources to help development strategy.

FY04

A coalition or organization of regional individuals who have an interest in the responsible development of Copper Basin Resources will be formed.

- Foster improved communications between entities involved for best conservation and utilization of resources.
- Assist communities in junk and abandoned car removal.

FY04

FY04

CVDA, CVRC&D, BLM, DNR, NPS, AI, DC, EPA

Analysis of Resource Utilization and Conservation:

Economic Advantages:

- Gateway to Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve
- Trans Alaska Pipeline corridor passes through the Copper Valley en route to Valdez with the potential for access to natural gas if it is transported along this corridor
- Access to Copper River and fish resources

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Low forest productivity
- No access to natural gas reserves
- Lack of private land

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Small Manufacturing
- ⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents
- ⇒ Mining
- ⇒ Oil and Gas Development
- ⇒ Forestry
- ⇒ Niche agricultural markets and agricultural development

Emergency Preparation and Response / Public Safety

Goal: Residents and industry in the Copper Valley will be better equipped to handle emergency situations.

Objective

Make available and house in a common location, educational materials on existing resources and services to reduce duplicative services.

Encourage coordinated services and communications between federal, state and local emergency organizations.

FY04

CVDA, LEPC, SERC, FEMA

Increased communication and coordination both legislatively and statewide.

Support the development of state –wide and region-wide coordinated FEMA response teams from communities.

FY 04

CVDA, LEPC, SERC, FEMA

Have a higher number of certified Volunteer Fire Departments.

Identify existing stations and units, educate the public and support efforts towards more certification.

FY04

CVDA, LEPC, SERC, FEMA

Analysis of Emergency Preparation and Response / Public Safety

Economic Advantages:

- Gateway to Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve
- Trans Alaska Pipeline corridor passes through the Copper Valley en route to Valdez with the potential for access to natural gas if it is transported along this corridor

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Limited health care facilities
- Limited access to news outlets and mass communication
- High cost of homeowners insurance for fire protection
- Lack of availability of homeowners insurance

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Small Manufacturing
- ⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents

Transportation

Goal: The Copper Valley will be a safe and attractive place to live, work and play.

Objective
Strategy
Performance Measure/ Timeline
Potential Partners

Maintain and improve safety of existing roadways, trails, paths and facilities.
Support the Department of Transportation in their efforts to maintain and improve Copper Valley Roadways.

FY04

DOT, DNR, CVDA, CVRC&D, NPS

Provide and maintain public restrooms, showers, laundry facilities and solid waste disposal services.
Support public and private agencies in their construction and maintenance of public restrooms, showers, laundry facilities and solid waste disposal.

FY 04

DOT, DNR, CVDA, CVRC&D

Community aviation plans with essential protected air services.
Support efforts to establish aviation plans with essential protected air services.

DOT, DNR, CVDA, CVRC&D

Make the McCarthy Road a priority in the DOT budget and construction plans.
Support the Department of Transportation in their efforts to maintain and improve the McCarthy Road.

FY 04

DOT, DNR, CVDA, CVRC&D

Encourage DOT to clean up and do revegetation with Native plant materials on all disturbed soils for roads, paths, and trails.

Maintain and improve safety of existing roadways, trails, paths and facilities.

FY 04

DOT, DNR, CVDA, CVRC&D

Solve access issues in gateway communities to Wrangell St. Elias National Park

Encourage and facilitate dialog between gateway communities and Wrangell St. Elias National Park.

FY 04

DOT, DNR, CVDA, CVRC&D

Analysis of Transportation:

Economic Advantages:

- Gateway to Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve
- Trans Alaska Pipeline corridor passes through the Copper Valley en route to Valdez with the potential for access to natural gas if it is transported along this corridor
- On the road system with easy access to Anchorage
- Crossroads to many travel destinations within Alaska and Canada
- 110 miles from ice free port

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Rural character associated with bush, but not a road less community, therefore not eligible to participate in programs designated for road less communities.
- Winter road conditions
- Distance to markets and ports

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Small Manufacturing
- ⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents

Small Business / Agriculture Development

Goal: The Copper Valley will be a safe and attractive place to live, work and play.

Objective
Strategy
Beginning Timeline
Potential Partners

Diversification of economy by promoting cottage resource based industry, responsible natural resource development and Eco-Tourism.

- Promote and provide small business development educational opportunities to assist area businesses with developing their resources.
- Support and encourage the Copper Valley Development Association, Inc. in their efforts to do a feasibility study and build a multi-purpose community building for the Copper Valley.

FY 04

FY 04

CVDA, CVRC&D, GCVCC, EPA, DCED

Development of local Copper River based products and their sale in local, statewide and national markets.

- Support and promote a Copper River Niche market.
- Continue production of Copper River Valley Business & Community Directory.

FY 05

Establish a community based entity to encourage the state to make more lands available for resource development and private enterprise.

Encourage and support the development of agency dedicated to acting as liaison to the State of Alaska in dispersing State lands for resource development and private enterprise.

Analysis of Small Business / Agricultural Development

Economic Advantages:

- Gateway to Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve
- Trans Alaska Pipeline corridor passes through the Copper Valley en route to Valdez with the potential for access to natural gas if it is transported along this corridor
- On the road system with easy access to Anchorage
- Crossroads to many travel destinations within Alaska and Canada
- 110 miles from ice free port
- No sales or income tax
- No property tax

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Too close to Anchorage to develop local economies
- High cost of power
- Lack of adequately trained work force
- Limited business opportunities due to proximity of communities to large urban markets
- Limited options for financial lending
- Limited office and retail space available

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Small Manufacturing
- ⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents
- ⇒ Forestry
- ⇒ Mining
- ⇒ Gas and Oil Development
- ⇒ Niche agricultural markets and agricultural development

Recreation

Goal: The Copper Valley will become a destination for tourists and residents alike. The youth of the area will have safe and wholesome recreational opportunities.

Objective

Strategy

Beginning Timeline

Potential Partners

Develop eco-friendly cultural recreation opportunities that promote local essence.

Support the development of a local identity.

Develop activities for youth that utilize local resources and culture to help prevent drug / alcohol / violence.

Support and encourage educational opportunities to youth and youth programs for the prevention of drug use/alcohol and violence.

CRSD, CRNA,

FY 04

Identify, publicize, protect and maintain a diverse system of trails.

Promote the development and maintenance of trail systems.

FY 04

CVDA, CVRC&D, GCVCC, EPA, DCED, NPS, DNR, BLM

Analysis of Recreation

Economic Advantages:

- Gateway to Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve
- Trans Alaska Pipeline corridor passes through the Copper Valley en route to Valdez with the potential for access to natural gas if it is transported along this corridor
- On the road system with easy access to Anchorage
- Crossroads to many travel destinations within Alaska and Canada
- 110 miles from ice free port

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Rural character associated with bush, but not a road less community, therefore not eligible to participate in programs designated for road less communities.
- Winter road conditions
- Distance to markets and ports
- Low population and density
- High substance abuse rates

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Small Manufacturing
- ⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents

Community Atmosphere and Culture

Goal: The Copper Valley residents will have and appreciation and awareness of our richly diverse natural and cultural histories and pass this on to future generations and offer our visitors an appreciation of the copper Valley.

Objective
Strategy
Beginning Timeline
Potential Partners

Retain rural lifestyle with no large scale developments.

Support the community wishes of no large scale development.

FY 04

CVDA, GCVCC, CVRC&D

Chose community projects on a basis of community support and availability to financially support them.

Encourage the use of published community planning efforts by any agency, community or organizations projects.

FY 04

CVDA, GCVCC, CVRC&D, DCED

There will exist a positive understanding and ongoing dialog between Native and Non-Native populations.

Encourage and support the dialog between Native and non-Native populations.

FY 04

CVDA, GCVCC, CVRC&D, DCED

The Copper Valley will be a place of natural beauty with a marketable identity.

- Promote community clean-up and beautification.
- Encourage the development of a community identity.

FY 04

FY 04

CVDA, GCVCC, CVRC&D, DCED

Develop and maintain local historical and cultural features and sites, in particular Kennicott Mill Site, area museums, Ahtna Historical Village.

Support the development of historical and cultural sites within the Copper Valley, especially the Kennicott Mill Site, area museums, and the Ahtna Heritage Foundation's Historical Village.

FY 04

CVDA, GCVCC, CVRC&D, DCED

Preserve unique diversified culture while promoting self-reliance and individualism.

Encourage and support any project promoting culture, self reliance and individualism.

FY 04

Encourage communities to work together in harmony for the common good.

- Support the development of networking opportunities for communities to work together and maintain an ongoing dialog.
- Support community planning processes.

FY 04

FY 04

CVDA, GCVCC, CVRC&D, DCED

Analysis of Community Atmosphere and Culture:

Economic Advantages:

- Gateway to Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve
- Trans Alaska Pipeline corridor passes through the Copper Valley en route to Valdez with the potential for access to natural gas if it is transported along this corridor
- On the road system with easy access to Anchorage
- Crossroads to many travel destinations within Alaska and Canada
- 110 miles from ice free port
- No property tax
- No income or sales tax

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Distance to markets and ports
- Low population and population density
- High substance abuse rates
- Limited access to news outlets and mass communication
- Cost of living
- Limited professional services
- Limited business opportunities
- Lack of adequately trained workforce

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Small Manufacturing
- ⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents

Health and Social Services

Goal: Everyone in the Copper Valley will have access to health and social services needed to maintain a quality of daily living that is consistent with communities elsewhere.

*Objective
Strategy
Beginning Timeline
Potential Partners*

Develop an unbiased and effective communication forum to improve coordination of services between entities to reduce duplicative services and meet needs of all in the Copper Valley.

- Support and encourage the Copper Valley Health providers to create a forum to begin working together and reducing duplicative services.
- Encourage health providers to offer services to all Valley residents.

FY 05

FY 04

CVDA, GCVCC, CVRC&D, DCED, DC, CRNA

Have a professional assessment done to address regionally stated concerns of the aged population, youth needs, special needs and solid waste.

Support the feasibility studies and their outcomes for an assisted living facility and other services for area seniors.
Support the study of youth opportunity programs.

FY 04

CVDA, GCVCC, CVRC&D, DCED, DC, CRNA

The residents of the Copper Valley will be self-sufficient.

Encourage self-sufficiency with education and lower the need for social services

FY 05

CVDA, GCVCC, CVRC&D, DCED, DC, CRNA

All residents of the Copper Valley will have improved medical response times to major urban hospitals.

Support the development of increased air rescue services.

FY 04

CVDA, GCVCC, CVRC&D, DCED, DC, CRNA

Analysis of Health and Social Services:

Tourism

Goal: The Copper Valley will become a tourist destination.

*Objective
Strategy
Beginning Timeline
Potential Partners*

Increased tourism in a manner which protects our environment and lifestyle.

Encourage and support projects and education for environmentally safe tourism markets.

FY 04

CVDA, CVRC&D, GCVCC, DCED, EPA

The regions niche markets will be identified and promoted making the region a recognizable and marketable destination.

Encourage and support the identification and marketing of Copper Valley's niche markets.

FY 04

CVDA, CVRC&D, GCVCC, DCED, EPA

Road travelers will be aware of indiscriminant littering and improper land use.

Encourage and support education for making visitors aware of indiscriminant littering, and improper land use.

FY 05

CVDA, CVRC&D, GCVCC, DCED, EPA

Economic Advantages:

- On the road system with easy access to Anchorage
- Crossroads of many travel destinations

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Limited access to news outlets and mass communications
- Limited professional services
- Limited health care facilities
- Limited home health care providers
- Limited low cost housing

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Small Manufacturing
- ⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents

Analysis of Tourism:

Economic Advantages:

- On the road system with easy access to Anchorage
- Crossroads of many travel destinations
- Gateway to Wrangell St. Elias National Park world heritage site
- Access to Copper River and other fish sources
- 110 miles from ice free port
- No property taxes
- No sales or income taxes

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Limited access to news outlets and mass communications
- Limited professional services
- Limited health care facilities
- Limited home health care providers
- Limited low cost housing
- Winter temperatures and darkness
- Poor winter road conditions
- Not linked to state rail system
- Lack of private land
- High fuel costs

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Small Manufacturing
- ⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents
- ⇒ Niche agricultural markets and agricultural development

Employment

Goal: The Copper Valley will have quality employment opportunities.

*Objective
Strategy
Beginning Timeline
Potential Partners*

Local recruitment and apprentice programs for federal permanent jobs.
Support and promote existing mentorship programs and educational opportunities for federal jobs.

FY 04

DOL, BLM, NPS, CRSD, PWSCC, CVDA, CVRC&D, GCVCC, DCED

Development of cultural tourism employment.
Encourage organizations to take advantage of resources and local opportunities.

FY 05

DOL, BLM, NPS, CRSD, PWSCC, CVDA, CVRC&D, GCVCC, DCED

Creation of more locally developed enterprises that employ local people.
Promote partnerships between public schools, trade unions and industries to provide education that is applicable to employment.

FY 06

DOL, BLM, NPS, CRSD, PWSCC, CVDA, CVRC&D, GCVCC, DCED

Analysis of Employment.

Economic Advantages:

- On the road system with easy access to Anchorage
- Crossroads of many travel destinations
- Gateway to Wrangell St. Elias National Park world heritage site
- Access to Copper River and other fish sources

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Low school enrollment for more school opportunities and programs
- Lack of adequately trained work force

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

- ⇒ Tourism
- ⇒ Small Manufacturing
- ⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents

Housing

Goal: The Copper Valley will have adequate and quality housing to meet its labor force and

infrastructure needs.

*Objective
Strategy
Beginning Timeline
Potential Partners*

Increased housing available through private enterprise.

Support efforts to bring more private enterprise to the area or efforts to build rental housing.

FY 05.

DCED, CVDA, CVRC&D, HUD, Private Industry

Increased rental properties available
Support housing development projects.

FY 04

DCED, CVDA, CVRC&D, HUD, Private Industry

Build housing with shared infrastructure on suitable terrains.
Encourage and support the development of agency dedicated to acting as liaison to the State of Alaska in dispersing State lands for resource development and private enterprise.

FY 05

DCED, CVDA, CVRC&D, HUD, Private Industry

Support and encourage projects within the Copper Valley that promote shared infrastructure on suitable terrains.

FY 04

DCED, CVDA, CVRC&D, HUD, Private Industry

Analysis of Housing.

Economic Advantages:

- On the road system with easy access to Anchorage
- Crossroads of many travel destinations
- Gateway to Wrangell St. Elias National Park world heritage site
- Access to Copper River and other fish sources
- No property taxes
- No sales or income taxes
- Trans Alaska Pipeline corridor

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Difficulty in installing approved septic and sewage treatment systems, lack of piped systems in outlying areas
- Lack of private land
- Limited low cost housing
- Limited housing meeting AHFC loan requirements
- Limited local options for financial lending
- High cost of homeowners insurance for fire protection
- Lack of availability of homeowners insurance

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

- ⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents
- ⇒ Gas and oil development
- ⇒ Mining
- ⇒ Forestry

Communication Between Government Agencies and Community

Goal: The Copper Valley will have a network of communication between all Tribal, State, Federal, and private organizations creating a cohesive community.

*Objective
Strategy
Beginning Timeline
Potential Partners*

The Copper Valley will have a readily available emergency and mitigation plan in place.

Continue to support the efforts of the Copper River Emergency Planning Committee in writing and publishing a living document for emergency planning and mitigation.

FY 04

CVDA, LEPC, ADES, FEMA

Increased communications between communities.

- Encourage participation in local community events to foster information exchange.
- Support networking projects such as the Roundtable Discussion group.

FY 04

FY 04

CVDA, CVRC&D, PWSCC, CRNA, AI, AHF All Community Agents

Analysis of Communications between Government Agencies and Community.

Economic Advantages:

- On the road system with easy access to Anchorage
- Crossroads of many travel destinations
- Gateway to Wrangell St. Elias National Park world heritage site
- Access to Copper River and other fish sources
- No property taxes
- No sales or income taxes
- Trans Alaska Pipeline corridor

Economic Disadvantages and economic factors affecting performance the Objective and Strategy would overcome:

- Low population and population density
- Not linked to state rail system
- Limited access to news outlets and mass communication, Internet, especially in outlying communities

Economic Opportunities objective and strategy would affect:

⇒ More local services that economically fit the needs of residents

Potential Partners Key

AHF: Ahtna Heritage Foundation	CVEA: Copper Valley Electric Company	GCVCC: Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce
AI: Ahtna Inc.	CVTC: Copper Valley Telephone Coop	LEPC: Local Emergency Planning Committee
ASFG: Alaska State Fish and Game	DC: Denali Commission	ADES: Alaska Division of Emergency Services
AVSW: Alaska Village Safe Water	DCED: Department of Community and Economic Development	DOL & WD: Department of Labor & Workforce Development
BLM: Bureau of Land Management	DNR: Department of Natural Resources	PWSCC: Prince William Sound Community College
CRNA: Copper River Native Association	DOT: Department of Transportation	
CRSD: Copper River School District	EDA: Economic Development Agency	
CVDA: Copper Valley Development Association, Inc.	EPA: Environmental Protection Agency	
CVRC&D: Copper Valley Resource Conservation and Development	NPS: National Park Service	

<p>Copper Valley Economic Council Copper Valley RC&D Council Regional Development Strategy</p>	
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Community Participation
Community Specific Values and Concerns
Community Resources and Input
Bibliography

VII DOCUMENTATION OF RESOURCES

Community Participation

Methodology and Disclaimer

This report contains a summary of the results of public meetings, surveys, and feedback administered between March 2003, and May 2003. The seven (7) Sub Regional Workshops and one (1) Regional Conference were advertised in the Copper Valley Bi-Weekly Newspaper, KCAM Radio Station, KCHU Radio Station, a mailing campaign to every box holder in the Copper Valley via Copper Reality monthly mailing, and a web site created and maintained by Copper Valley Development Association, Inc.

Over 124 people participated in the mail in survey / community meetings. The most significant group were those who attended one of the seven (7) Sub Regional Workshops held throughout the Copper Valley. (73%) The remaining answered a mail in questionnaire. (27%)

At the Sub Regional Workshops, the participants were asked to write values and concerns on flip chart paper and vote for the items the group felt was most important. The results of the highest priority items are contained within this document. Every attempt to include all opinions shared has been made to include in this document. Those that have been left out are the concerns, opinions, or suggestions that Copper Valley Development Association, Inc. has no power of authority to initiate or complete.

The summary contained within is not scientific. The quantitative responses have been tabulated and presented as a percentage of the total respondents within each area of interest presented within the survey and public meetings.

While these tables represent the views and opinions shared during the Sub Regional Workshops, not all views are recorded within these tables because they were held by only a few individuals. It was also determined that some of the opinions from Sub Regional Workshops were best expressed and documented within the Regional Goals, Objectives and Strategies, rather than in the table below.

A complete list of the comments, in their entirety, are available upon request from the Copper Valley Development Association for use in community specific plans.

The following tables represent the community specific values and concerns.

Area	Community Specific Comments
Chistochina / Slana / Mentasta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Power • Better radio and television reception • Solid waste management • Youth center • No industrial tourism industries • Mom and pop type restaurant • Clinic • High School • Ambulance service closer to Slana
Gulkana, Gakona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better water quality • Community water / sewer systems • Management plan for trail use along the Gulkana River • Paved roads in Gulkana Village
Tolsona, Mendeltna, Nelchina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulate run off from way station near Mendeltna Creek • Re-open Lottie Sparks School • Volunteer Fire Department for Nelchina – Mendeltna • Trail management
Copper Center, Tazlina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of old Copper Center School
Chitina , Kenny Lake, McCarthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular trash dumps • Community wells • Better internet and phone service in McCarthy area • Private service bridge to McCarthy • Vehicle bridge to McCarthy • Electrical intertie • Library funding • Teen programs • Elementary School in Chitina • Enhanced education and science activities in McCarthy • Protection of McCarthy Creek • Volunteer Fire Department/ EMS McCarthy • Extended bike / pedestrian path on Edgerton Highway • Improved road maintenance on Old Edgerton Highway • Improvements to McCarthy Road • Bike path in Chitina • Bike path in McCarthy • Community recreation hall in McCarthy • Community based museum in McCarthy • Trail management and development • Junked car removal • Improved postal service to McCarthy • Health care in Kenny Lake • Welcome to Kenny Lake sign • Visitor information center in McCarthy • Safe community water source in McCarthy • Community brochure for McCarthy • Acquisition of public lands for community use
Paxson Sourdough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change to local culture • Hard line phones • Commercial power from Golden Valley

- Need school in Paxson
- Don't need school in Paxson
- No additional youth services needed or wanted in Paxson
- Pull of at mile 183.5 Richardson Highway for moose viewing

Community Resources and Input

Robert Wilkinson and Susan Eide, Public Relations Coordinator, Copper Valley Electric Association

Lynn Grams, former Alaska State Park Ranger, BLM Recreational Planner

Martin Finnesand, Manager of Chitina Electric Inc.

Danny Rosenkrans, Geologist. Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Michelle Masters, Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Judy Chapman, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Scott Strauss, Glennallen Improvement Association

Sharon Daniel, Copper Basin Sanitation

Steve Hostetter, Alaska Bible College

Prince William Sound Community College

Diane Kinney, Port Operations, City of Valdez

K.J. Mushovic, Bureau of Land Management

Martin Maricle, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Christopher Deck, Cross Road Medical Center

Michelle Dodd, Copper River Native Association

Rita Stadtmiller, Department of Fish and Game – Glennallen

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2000 Census information

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CVDA

CEDS

